

Health service marked as main target for cuts

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, indicated in the Commons yesterday that the National Health Service has been marked by the Government as one of its main targets for cuts in public spending.

'System cannot aid all human ills'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The Government has clearly marked the National Health Service as one of its main targets for the cuts in public expenditure which are expected to be announced in a White Paper within the next few weeks and in the Budget on March 26.

That was the burden of a significant speech in the Commons yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for Social Services, when he opened the debate in terms that could be interpreted only as a trailer for wide-ranging savings in the costs of the nation's health services.

The Government's health service policies were later approved by 191 votes to 159, a majority of 32.

Almost every developed country was having to take steps to restrict its health expenditure, Mr Jenkin told the House. Britain was no exception and he agreed with the Royal Commission on the service in saying that it was illusory to believe that the demand for health care could ever be satisfied. As the commission also stated, Mr Jenkin added, it would be unrealistic to suppose that the fortunes of the NHS could be insulated from those of the nation. He pointed out that by the end of the year the Government would have had to find between £350m and £400m above the cash limits laid down by the Labour Government in order to finance inherited pay increases.

That was three times what the health service itself had to find by making savings. No one could escape the fact that if we spent more on pay there was less left for services.

For 1980-81 Mr Jenkin said that the Government would make up for this year's inflation and provide for a half per cent growth, but that was not as much as the service needed to cope with an ageing population and to keep up with medical advances. What we spent on health depended on what we as a nation earned. Until the nation was earning more, we should have to do with the low level of growth, Mr Jenkin said. In spite of that, no region would receive an increase in its allocation in real terms of less than 0.3 per cent enabling the Government to give the worst-off regions an increase of 1.6 per cent.

The Government, he added, was committed to maintaining spending on the NHS at the level set out in last January's White Paper.

But over and over again Mr Jenkin stressed "the simple truth" that the NHS could not attend to all human ills. Quoting his predecessor in the Labour Government, Mr David Ennals, Mr Jenkin said that everyone would like more money for the NHS, but there was only so much that the taxpayer was prepared to afford. The public should not be encouraged to believe that they could have whatever they wanted whenever they wanted it.

The ever-mounting pressure of demand seemed sometimes to threaten to engulf the service. People must learn that if they consulted their doctor for every minor ailment or if they demanded "a pill for every ill" then they could legitimately complain if the resources were not there when serious trouble arose.

Mr Jenkin emphasized that health service changes were an essential part of the Government's policy. That was one way of underlining the individual's responsibility for his own health care that he should pay part of the cost where he could afford it. The Government, he went on, was examining alternative methods to taxation.

Mr Jenkin made no apology for having set in train an investigation of the possibilities of increasing the insurance element as a way to finance the service, but the results of that study were unlikely for some time.

Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that the debate was taking place against a background of important policy changes by the Government.

Private practice, Mr Orme said, was immoral and no one should have the right to buy health care. The health service needed more money and the British people should be made aware that the only sensible and democratic way of financing the NHS was through taxation.

Union leaders' claim that the Government plans to replace the National Health Service with an insurance-based system, a union leader claimed last night (the Press Association reports).

And, as a step towards this goal, the Government wants a mixed system with high prescription charges and a scheme for paying for visits to the doctor, Mr Albert Spenswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said.

Parliamentary report, page 6



President Tito gets up and sees his sons

President Tito is recovering from the amputation of his leg faster than expected and three days after the operation he is getting out of bed (Dessa Trevisan writes from Belgrade).

Government officials said that he inquired yesterday about the world situation and said he wished to be kept informed of Afghanistan affairs and the general deterioration of United States-Soviet relations.

A senior Yugoslav official said that it was expected the president would resume activity within a few weeks and that he would gradually take over his responsibilities. In any case the president already appears to be following events from his hospital ward. Evidence of his remarkable robustness was given today when a photograph (above), showing the President talking to his two sons, Zarko and Misa, appeared in Yugoslav newspapers.

His close associates say the president fought off the psychological shock of the operation well but for a man who was so proud of his appearance it must have come as a blow.

Yugoslavs, who have, during these past two weeks, begun to live with the prospect of the death of President Tito, are now beginning to believe in his power to survive even the heaviest physical odds.

The leadership, which has demonstrated remarkable self-confidence throughout this critical time, has acted as a caretaker team rehearsing for the transition to the post-Tito era. The tests have proved successful and today a leading Yugoslav said that however upset they were by President Tito's illness emotions did not stand in the way of institutions functioning smoothly.

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TUC seeking shift on steel policy

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders are to warn the Government to make a fundamental shift on its steel and coal policies or face a growing risk of more widespread and damaging industrial action.

The risk of sliding into an unwanted general strike was raised at the TUC General Council yesterday, and while union leaders are anxious not to "talk up" the sense of crisis, they will urge senior Cabinet ministers to give ground on their handling of the economy.

The TUC's fresh political initiative was launched on the eve of renewed efforts today by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to prepare the ground for resumed negotiations designed to end the national steel strike, now in its fourth week.

Leaders of the dominant union in the dispute, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, are to have talks with Mr James Mortimer, chairman of Acas. Mr Mortimer has been sounding out with British Steel Corporation executives the prospects of an improved offer on pay and productivity bonuses.

The TUC is concerned at the wider impact of BSC's closure programme which would make 32,000 men redundant during the next eight months. The general council "recognized with sympathy" the reasons why a day of action has been called by the Wales TUC in protest at the corporation's plan.

Continued on page 2, col 6

French snub Moscow over Sakharov case

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 23

M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, president of the French National Assembly, abruptly cut short his official visit to the Soviet Union within hours of meeting President Brezhnev last night, and flew back to Paris today in protest at the killing of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident leader.

As he was leaving, the Soviet press bitterly denounced Dr Sakharov as a traitor, a beligerent anti-communist and an exponent of the cold war, and suggested that he had been expelled from Moscow because he was leaking nuclear secrets to foreigners.

M. Chaban-Delmas said he could not keep silent on the measures against Dr Sakharov, which he regarded as a matter of principle. But as a guest of the Soviet leaders he could not intervene in the affair without interfering in the Soviet Union's internal affairs.

"Being able neither to speak nor keep silent, I consider myself personally obliged to return to France as soon as possible," he told French correspondents.

[On his return to Paris he said: "I went carrying the hopes of several families of political prisoners but a sudden event showed me it was not the time for such hopes". UPI reports.

He had made the journey to Moscow in spite of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan "because all efforts to stop a return of a 1950s-style Cold War seemed valuable to me".

During his talk with President Brezhnev, described by Tass as frank and friendly, M. Chaban-Delmas, a Gaullist former Prime Minister and a strong supporter of French links with the Soviet Union, said that in Paris the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan was seen as an occupation and this was unacceptable.

M. Chaban-Delmas summoned the president of the USSR-France Association to the French Embassy this morning and told him of his decision. Professor Anatoly Alexandrov, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, of which Dr Sakharov is still a member, and Mr. Alexei Chyrtkov, chairman of the Council of the Union of the Supreme Soviet, the body that invited M. Chaban-Delmas, also called at the embassy.

They emphasized that they would not take personal offence at his decision, and said they were eager that links between France and the Soviet Union should not be broken.

M. Chaban-Delmas's abrupt departure is a keen disappointment to the Russians, who saw his decision to continue his 10-day tour as proof that Europe could be persuaded to take a less intransigent line over Afghanistan than the Americans.

Apparently M. Chaban-Delmas learnt of Dr Sakharov's arrest just before his meeting with Mr Brezhnev, but did not bring the matter up during his talks.

Dr Sakharov's arrest and exile in Gorky has upset many Soviet scientists and intellectuals who have respected the dissident academic even though not agreeing with him.

This evening a long and bitter attack in Izvestia said Dr Sakharov was being used as a Trojan horse by ideological enemies of the Soviet Union to conduct psychological warfare.

Continued on page 8, col 5

Tory-Labour split on foreign policy widens

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A split on foreign policy between the Government and the Labour Opposition appeared to be widening last night in advance of today's policy statement on Afghanistan and the Commons debate on Britain's nuclear defence.

While condemning the invasion of Afghanistan and urging the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops, Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, went along with a Labour National Executive Committee (NEC) motion urging the Government not to increase arms sales to countries neighbouring Afghanistan.

The NEC also urged the Government not to proceed (as it has already decided) with the stationing in Britain of American cruise missiles and Pershing II nuclear missiles elsewhere in Nato countries. "We reaffirm our support for the process of détente," the NEC motion stated.

Labour's National Executive is of course far removed from the Opposition Shadow Cabinet. But while shadow ministers are known to be divided among themselves what was surprising about yesterday's NEC motion was that it provoked no voice, according to Labour Party officers.

The statement condemning the Soviet invasion issued at the suggestion of Mr Frank Ailman, the left-wing MP for Salford, East, the balancer "as we condemned US intervention in Vietnam and British intervention in Saudi Arabia without a voice. Evidently the Wilson gov-

Anger over Callaghan support for men's bar

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, has incensed Labour Party supporters in his Cardiff, South-east constituency by his apparent backing for a men-only bar in the bar of a Labour club in the city.

Some are also angry that Lord Brooks, constituency chairman, has apologized to the club for the "inexcusable actions" of some party members.

Rosyth Ward Labour Party discovered that women members were barred from using a bar at Rosyth Labour Club, where they have met for many years.

After a meeting at the club, during which they passed a resolution to boycott the premises until the management committee changed its policy, about six women and their supporters entered the bar and ordered drinks.

What happened then is hotly disputed, the women declaring that they were manhandled and humiliated and the men alleging that the women behaved like a gaggle of geese.

Dr Catharine Belsey, a lecturer at University College, Cardiff, said: "As I was buying a round I was manhandled and shouted at by an official. He tried to wrest the drink from my hand. Men in the bar became belligerent and insisted that we leave."

Dr Belsey, who has been nominated as chairman of Mr Callaghan's constituency committee, added: "Labour is supposed to be leading the fight against discrimination."

Her colleague, Dr Dinah Westmorland, said: "We were manhandled and we threatened to call the police."

When the constituency general management committee met, it considered a letter from the club containing the odd charge that the women had behaved in "an uncouth and ungentlemanly manner."

One man who attended the meeting said: "We were upset when Mr Callaghan spoke in support of the club's action."

Club officials were unrepentant yesterday. Mr Colin Facey, vice-chairman, said: "The women called us chauvinist pigs."

He pointed out that when Mr Callaghan and his wife visited the club, the former Prime Minister joined the men for a drink while Mr Callaghan talked to the women in the concert room.

Mr Robert Foley, club chairman, said the protesters were "a lunatic fringe."

Tory MP is seriously ill

Mr Maurice Macmillan (59), Conservative MP for Farnham, is seriously ill in the intensive care unit of the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

He was taken there on Monday suffering from a severe bronchial attack from Birch Grove, near Haywards Heath, the home of his father, the former Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan.

Kidnap isle raid

Agliardi, Sardinia, Jan 23.—The police arrested 16 shepherds and shopkeepers early today in a move to stamp out kidnapping in Sardinia.

Gold moves in erratic fashion

Gold moved erratically on the bullion markets falling \$100 to \$590 an ounce at one point and finally settling at \$700 an ounce, a rise of \$10 on the day. Dealing was so hectic that the London fixings were delayed. No one appeared to know where the price was going next. In Zurich a wave of selling affected the metal in the morning and the price plummeted. Swiss dealers attributed a loss of confidence in gold to rumours that the deposed Shah of Iran had been arrested in Panama.

Sim Fein leader arrested after bomber is buried

Police in Ulster arrested several people, including Mr Gerry Adams, vice-president of Sinn Féin, yesterday as the Provisional IRA bomber who died in a premature explosion in a train last Thursday was buried. A volley of shots was fired over the coffin of Kevin Delaney at the graveside but clergy had refused to accept his funeral in church.

Bill on jury vetting

A private member's Bill to make jury vetting illegal and to improve the rights of jurors is to be introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Melchett. Its aim is to give the subject a full public airing and to persuade the Commons to legislate on it in the next session.

Swelling chorus of world disapproval over exile

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 23

When details of Dr Sakharov's exile became clear late last night, Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, made a personal protest to Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington.

A statement issued by the State Department said: "All those who value freedom will deplore this official act of repression against a man who has struggled valiantly for human rights in the Soviet Union."

It added: "Words cannot add to the moral grandeur of Dr Sakharov's enormous and continuing contribution to the cause of human rights in the USSR and around the world." The Nobel Peace Prize winner's fate was a "cause of deepest concern for all free societies."

State Department officials are recalling the personal interest, which President Carter has always taken in Dr Sakharov's efforts to improve human rights in the Soviet Union. Soon after he took office in 1977, Mr Carter endorsed a statement issued by the State Department which expressed the Administration's "admiration" for Dr Sakharov "as an outspoken champion of human rights in the Soviet Union."

Concern in Europe: France, West Germany, Italy and Spain added their voices to the swelling chorus of protest.

The French Government said it considered the exile to be contrary to the spirit of the 1975 Helsinki Conference on European security and cooperation, although it would not recommend a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Even the French Communist Party, the only big West European party to support Soviet action in Afghanistan, said it "deplores and disapproves of the action concerning Sakharov."

In Madrid the Spanish Communist Party voiced its strongest protest at Dr Sakharov's deportation.

President Pertini of Italy sent a telegram to President Brezhnev condemning the arrest as "a clear violation of the civil rights consecrated in the Helsinki charter." In Bonn, an official spokesman said the West German Government was deeply shaken by the Soviet action and the Belgian Government said it was "a deplorable symbol of the indifference shown by Soviet authorities towards the aspirations to peace and freedom of the huge majority of men."

Reuter and AP. Begin praise: Opening today's session of the Knesset in Jerusalem, Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, said Israel stood together with free men and women all over the world in demanding a halt to Professor Sakharov's persecution "so that he can continue his work in the field of science and in the fight for human rights."

Leading article, page 15

Israel leaves key area

Israel has returned to Egypt the largest and most strategic Sinai desert sector so far relinquished. At a ceremony designed to show its military power, Israel finished withdrawal from two-thirds of the conquered territory. Before the ceremony, Israeli demolition squads had destroyed several lance and command facilities in the mountains near Egypt, to the disgust of many senior Israeli officers, will resign.

Reports suppressed

The Labour Party national executive decided yesterday not to publish reports prepared by Lord Underhill on Trotskyist infiltration of local party organizations. A letter from Lord Underhill and an updated report on infiltration sent to Mr Ron Hayward, the general secretary, recently were not considered by the executive meeting.

"Spy in the cab": More than 100,000 lorry drivers decide not to take industrial action to prevent fitting of tachographs.

Abortion statement: All Roman Catholic bishops in England, Wales and Scotland affirm support for new Bill.

Bangkok: Freed British nurse hopes to be home by the weekend.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 23-25; La creme de la creme, 24; Personal, 25, 26.

Zanu candidate shot

Rhodesian police are searching for gunmen who murdered Mr Oliver Saunyama, an election candidate of the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole's Zanu party. Mr Saunyama was shot by two men as he was leaving his home. A party official said they were shocked and mystified by his murder. He was not a leading or controversial figure in the party.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On Civil Defence, from Mr Tony Kerpel, and others; boycotting the Olympics, from Mr Malcolm Frost

Leading articles: Sakharov; Budapest

Features, pages 9, 14

Ronald Butt on the birth of a Labour idea: Bernard Levin column: The Times Cook

Books, page 12

Reviews of The State of the Language, an examination of what is happening to English in the 'eighties': books and pornography; novels and historical fiction

Sport, pages 10, 11

Boxing: Britons face five world contests: Tennis: Gerulaitis beaten in straight sets in US indoor championships: Shooting: Cousins drops to third place in Grand National weights unveiled

Business News, pages 17-22

Stock Markets: Gold shares continued to react to the fluctuating bullion price with gifts firm ahead of trading in the new 'cage' today. Equities rallied after hours to finish 1.0 up at 450.8

Financial Editor: Decca's scope for argument

Business features: Clifford Webb on Peugeot-Citroen's commercial vehicle plans; South Africa's cautious policy on its gold revenues is described by Michael Press; John Whitmore discusses whether a medium-term economic plan should be published.

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HOME NEWS

Plans for alternative venues for games not practicable, British Olympic chairman states

By Michael Hatfield

The Government's drive, at home and abroad, to get support for alternative sites for the Olympic Games was seen last night to be meeting with a discouraging response.

Sir Denis Follows, chairman of the British Olympic Association, who yesterday received a letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said last night that the proposal was not practicable. "If the games do not take place in Moscow then that is it, they cannot be arranged anywhere else," he said.

Mrs Thatcher asked Sir Denis if he would ask the British Olympic Association to approach the International Olympic Committee urgently and propose that the games be moved from the Soviet Union.

"We believe that, with cooperation between like-minded countries, it should be possible to hold the games in one or, if necessary, more than one alternative place," she wrote. "The Government are prepared to play a full part in supporting arrangements in this country for those parts of the games that might be held here."

The British Olympic Association is not due to hold its next meeting until March, but Sir Denis said he would be communicating the Prime Minister's letter to them. Though he could not forecast the opinions of individual members of the BOA, his own view was that an alternative venue was impossible.

Sir Denis said he was hoping to get a response within a week, because he flies to Mexico a week on Saturday and then goes to the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, in the United States.

Meanwhile, the division of opinion among politicians over the Olympic Games are expected to be voiced in the Commons today. It was clear last night, for example, that there is a whole range of views inside the ranks of Labour and among Labour backbenchers.

Shado ministers are divided over the issue, as was evident after a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet last night. There are some who are in favour of a boycott of the games, though they remain in a minority.

The view of Mr James Callaghan, leader of the party, is that unilateral action on a boycott would be counter-productive because it would not get general international support and the only country to gain would be the Soviet Union.

There is also a division of opinion in the party's national executive committee.

Mr Neil Kinnock, MP for Beccles and the spokesman on education, who is not a member of the Shadow Cabinet, said at an NEC meeting yesterday that he had always been against the games being held in Moscow. But an amendment to strike out a phrase in a statement on Afghanistan which stated: "We do not support those who advocate a boycott of the Olympic Games," was defeated by 15 votes to seven.

Mr Denis Howell, the Minister for Sport in the last Labour administration, said he believed that the games should be held in Moscow, but there was no reason why athletes as individuals should take part in the pre-Olympic jamboree, such as the parade around the stadium, Washington: President Carter's appeal to American athletes to appear away from the games in Moscow while Russian troops remain in Afghanistan is, not surprisingly, causing considerable concern for the United States Olympic Committee (David Cross writes).

But to judge from the testimony of Mr Robert Kane, its president, before a full session of the House of Representatives yesterday, it is having some difficulty in making up its mind how it should react to the appeal.

In answer to questions from members of Congress, most of whom back the President fully, Mr Kane said that he was opposed to an immediate American boycott of the games, principally because no other national Olympic committee appeared to favour such a move for its own team.

The absence of an American team from Moscow might be viewed as a propaganda victory by Moscow, if other teams still attended the games, he suggested.

Letters, page 15

Bill aims to abolish jury vetting

By Anabel Ferriman

Lord Melchett is to introduce a private members' Bill in the House of Lords to abolish jury vetting and to improve the rights of jurors.

The Bill's aim is to give the subject a thorough public airing and to generate enough support for it to persuade the House of Commons to legislate on the subject in the next session.

The Bill would make it illegal to investigate the background of people on jury panels and would lay down that jurors should be told of their rights to take notes, ask questions of the judge and ask questions of the witnesses.

Lord Melchett, a minister in the last Labour government, said last night: "It is my feeling that the rights of jurors are being eroded in a number of ways since the property qualification for a juror was abolished, there have been several limitations introduced to the principle of a man being tried by 12 of his peers."

The number of challenges that defence counsel could make to a juror had been limited, majority verdicts introduced and the number of offences for which a defendant could elect to be tried by jury reduced.

He hoped that when he introduced his Bill Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, would have the opportunity of stating the Government's attitude to the question of jury vetting.

Lord Melchett is to be chairman of a meeting on the subject at the Conservative Club in London, next Monday. Speakers will be Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, Mr E. T. Thompson, the Minister for the Home Office, and Miss Patricia Hewson, Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Lord Melchett said last night that he would take note of what was said at the meeting in considering what changes to make to his Bill, which was already substantially drafted.

Labour MPs are angered by decision of their party executive

Report on Trotskyists not to be published

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Labour MPs demanding publication of reports prepared by Lord Underhill, when national agent of the party, on Trotskyist infiltration of local party organizations, were angered yesterday by the decision of the party national executive committee not to publish.

What is more, although Mr James Callaghan the party leader, has repeatedly urged the executive to publish all the documents it has in its possession, a letter from Lord Underhill, an up-to-date report on infiltration which he sent recently to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, was not considered yesterday.

Mr Hayward said after the meeting that he had been "sapped on the knuckles" by members of the executive for bringing Lord Underhill's letter before them.

"They made it clear that I

ought not to depart from the usual procedure, which is not to bring letters from individual members of the party, whoever they are, direct to the executive; they should go to the appropriate committee," Mr Hayward said.

On a motion by Mr Wedgwood Benn, the executive endorsed again a report approved by the 1977 annual party conference on Trotskyist "infiltration" prepared by Lord Underhill.

Then they went on to discuss a recommendation from the executive committee that they should reject a request for publication of the report and 10 documents on which it was based.

Mr Michael Foot, the deputy leader, proposed that the recommendation be referred back. He thought the committee should have another look at the material and see whether it should not be made

available at Transport House to the press.

Mr Callaghan said he had also received some documents. He had read some of them and "they were so turgid, they were unbelievable".

Mr Benn declared himself against expelling anyone from the party. He quoted from a newspaper report alleging that Trotskyist infiltration had spread over to another decision of the organization committee that had come up for endorsement by the main committee.

That was to confirm the decision of the Oxford Labour Party to expel from membership Mr Edward Heslin, chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union bookshop branch at Oxford for sup-

porting The Workers' Socialist League.

The reference back was lost by 14 votes to 12.

The committee decided by 14 votes to 8 not to endorse the expulsion of Mr Heslin, but to refer it back to the organization committee for re-examination.

Last night, Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington, who had asked for publication of all reports about Trotskyist infiltration, said the decision on Mr Heslin was symptomatic of the left-dominated NEC's encouragement of revolutionary groups.

Michael Hatfield writes: Commenting on the NEC decision, the Campaign for a Labour Victory issued a statement last night saying: "Neither Jim Callaghan nor David Bessent (general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union) can regard today's decisions as other than a slap in the face."

Boycott wrong, Alan Pascoe says

By Ian Bradley

Alan Pascoe, an Olympic silver medalist and former captain of the British athletics team, said last night that he thought British athletes should go to Moscow for the 1980 Olympic Games.

"No one wants to minimize the seriousness of the situation in Afghanistan, but the Government is responding in completely the wrong way in calling on athletes to strike out. I really do not think sport should be the spearhead of our response to the Russians," he said.

Mr Pascoe, who has taken part in three Olympic Games, said that he had talked to a number of British athletes due to take part in this summer's games and they all intended to go to Moscow if the event was still on.

He said that among those he had spoken to were Mark Taylor, the cricket captain, and Peter De Kromer, the javelin thrower. He said that the only athlete who had been quoted as being in favour of a boycott was Christopher Stewart, the number 10 marathon runner.

Mr Pascoe said that the fact that so few competitors had



Alan Pascoe: "Sport should not be the spearhead of our response."

a decision of conscience like this. There is only one thing an athlete is interested in and that is competing and performing."

Mr Pascoe said that he thought most British athletes would also object to direct government intervention.

"We might have appreciated it six years ago if the Government had said that Moscow was not a suitable venue. That was the decision for politicians and administrators to make, not for athletes."

Now I do not think we are in a position to pull out. "Under normal circumstances athletes would prefer certain venues to others, but they live with the thought that certain countries are not as attractive as others."

"So far Britain's total response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is to say that we are not going to send a few kids to Moscow. I think that is the wrong response. The situation is far more serious than that and it is ridiculous to say 'we are not going to play ball with you'."

Mr Jody Patching, secretary of the Australian Olympic Federation, said yesterday that Australian athletes would continue training for this year's Olympics.

Sinn Fein leader arrested after bomber's funeral

From Our Own Correspondent

Belfast

A volley of pistol shots was fired yesterday across the coffin of a Provisional IRA bomber who died last Thursday in a premature explosion on a rush-hour train in which two innocent people were also killed.

The police in Ulster yesterday arrested several people and promised that those "who broke the law will be brought to justice". Six people were still in custody last night, including Mr Gerry Adams, vice-president of Sinn Fein, who was released only a few weeks ago after being detained without charge under the emergency powers provisions.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said: "A considerable number of soldiers and police officers, both seen and unseen, were on duty in connection with today's events and the results will be backed up with further action."

The bomber, Kevin Delaney, aged 26, came from the Catholic district of Ballymurphy, in west Belfast. He died with a Nigerian-born accountant who had lived in the province for 14 years, and a student, aged 17. Nearly two columns of notices appeared in the Catholic Irish News yesterday in memory of the volunteer from B Company, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, IRA. He left a wife and children.

The clergy at the Corpus Christi Church in Ballymurphy refused to accept the coffin, a decision that deeply upset the bomber's family. The funeral took place from the home of the dead man's mother.

Several hundred mourners gathered outside the house, in Springfield Avenue, to follow the funeral to Milltown cemetery, which was led by a lone girl piper. The procession was watched by three army helicopters.

Paisley party still holding floor

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

The politically explosive issue of power-sharing between Ulster's two main communities now overflows the national conference on devolved government, which yesterday ended its final session this week.

The Democratic Unionists, for the second day running, had the conference in effect to themselves as the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the non-sectarian Alliance Party reserved their positions until the vital question of the role of the Catholic minority is raised, probably on Monday.

In a typically taciturn statement, Mr Paisley's spokesman said that the party was not going to discuss the issue of the Catholic minority on the agenda, took no part in the discussion.

It was the second day of meaningful talks on Ulster's political future after four previous sessions that ranged over the issues that could be included on the agenda. The subjects discussed were: whether an elected body under new government would have legislative and executive powers, or executive powers only; what should be the method of election to such a body.

As to the method of election, the DUP, and the Alliance Party would favour proportional representation, which applies in Northern Ireland in all but the Westminster elections. All that the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, would say was that he rejected the power-sharing arrangements as under the old executive system, but he clearly does not rule out some form of special arrangement to protect the Catholics.

Indeed, Mr Paisley's party has drawn up its proposals on how the Catholics might be included in a new administration in Ulster.

The constitutional talks resume on Monday. Mr Paisley emphasized after yesterday's session that the conference would continue until all items had been covered.

Mr Haughey accused Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, of last night accused of adopting a "shameful" attitude towards an alleged IRA takeover of a town last week during a veteran republican funeral (the Press Association reports).

The criticism from Mr Paddy Harte, the Fine Gael opposition party's spokesman on security, concerned the activities of Provisional IRA supporters at the funeral in Tralee, Co. Kerry, of Mr John Joe Sheehy.

An official police report to Mr Haughey this week denied reports that the IRA had taken control of traffic in Tralee during the funeral. But local journalists insist that known members of the IRA were seen in the streets, some on motorcycles, some on cars.

Mr Harte said: "I call on Mr Haughey unambiguously to state his position in the clearest terms possible."

Low gas prices make no sense, minister says

By John Huxley

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday hit back at critics of his recent decision to increase domestic gas prices by almost 30 per cent this year.

A policy of selling gas into the home at rock-bottom prices and at zero profit made no sense, he said. Over the past 10 years domestic tariffs had fallen by a third, after allowing for inflation.

"As a result, for all the talk of British Gas's big profits, the corporation is now not making any money at all out of sales into the home. A year ago domestic sales accounted for half of British Gas's profits but today they make no contribution to the corporation's bottom line."

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Elected second Chamber call by Lord Chancellor

By Our Political Reporter

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, last night said that there ought to be constitutional changes for the second Chamber, which should be elected, but he did not expect it without being bench pressure on Cabinet ministers. He was addressing the Tory backbench constitutional committee.

The committee has embarked on its own exercise on what could become a controversial issue within the Conservative Party.

There are those who favour radical reform by the replacement of the Lords with a second chamber elected by proportional representation. But others advocate reform along more modest lines, incorporating some hereditary peers.

Labour Party policy is that the House of Lords should be abolished, but that was blocked by Mr Callaghan and his ministers in the 1970s when a general election manifesto was drawn up last year.

Restrictions affecting the movement of animals in seven northern counties, imposed earlier this month to prevent the spread of swine vesicular disease, will be removed from midnight tonight.

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Corby engineers end safety coverage

From Frances Gibb

Corby

One hundred and fifty steelworkers stopped providing safety cover at the Corby plant yesterday. The men, members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, were told to stop work from 6 am in an attempt to force the remaining 200 workers at the plant out on strike.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, a divisional organizer of the National Union of Railwaysmen, said the national executive of his union had decided to call out more than 7,500 members. The action will affect British Rail's inter-city services and carry the impact of the strike beyond the principal.

The strike, which has the "sympathetic" acknowledgment of the British TUC, is a protest against the British Steel Corporation's plans drastically to reduce steelmaking capacity at the Port Talbot and Llanwern plants.

More than 20 unions affiliated to the Wales TUC have indicated they will support an all-out stoppage from March 10 unless they are placated by a more militant lead from Congress House in London.

There was continued trouble as picket lines in South Wales yesterday and two men were arrested when police scuffled with pickets outside Cashmore's steel stockholding yard at Risca, in Gwent, as eight lorries left the plant.

At Gwernon, near Swansea, a policeman was injured by a stone allegedly thrown by a picket blocking a steel stockholding company but the men claimed the missile could have been thrown up by the wheels of a lorry.

Two arrests were made at the plant as pickets tried to prevent the movement of supplies.

a decision on continuing work in two days. Mr Reginald Kinnear, NUB executive council member said: "It was essential to keep the coke ovens going, otherwise the brickworks would collapse and a big refurbishing job would be needed, which could take months."

Arthur Osman writes from Birmingham: Steel workers in the West Midlands decided yesterday not to change their policy on picketing despite requests from some to block consumers, such as BL, Mr Roy Bishop, divisional organizer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said the policy would be reviewed over the next week, but the view was "why picket 10 consumers when you can block one main supplier?"

"We have asked for more pickets from Wales, Yorkshire, Corby, Stoke-on-Trent and Tees-side for next week. They would number about 400 to help to reinforce the 170 we already have from outside the Midlands."

Our Aberdeen correspondent writes: Aberdeen dockers yesterday agreed to black any shipments of steel to offshore oil fields in support of striking steelworkers. That could impede exploration and completion of wells.

However, at this time of the year there is little engineering or drilling activity off shore.

Strike costs corporation £16m a week

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

The strike by steelworkers employed by the British Steel Corporation, now in its fourth week, is costing the corporation about £16m a week.

Before the strike began on January 2 the corporation, which lost £309m in the last financial year, forecast that after a half-year loss of £146m, losses in the second half of this financial year would exceed those recorded over the first six months.

The scale of the direct cost of the strike was disclosed yesterday to a select committee of MPs by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, when he gave evidence on the work of the department.

He said: "We have been given the impression that the direct cost to BSC is £10m a week. But we cannot judge the loss of customers and loss of markets, which is of course far more serious, as a series of speculations for steelworkers."

But the £10m is in addition to the £1m a day losses which the corporation was suffering before the strike because of the collapse of demand and the high costs of United Kingdom steel relative to the price of European. Losses for the full year on that basis could be well over £350m if the strike continues.

Deep concern over Welsh economy

Continued from page 1

to partially close the steelworks at Port Talbot and Llanwern. Railwaysmen, miners, transport workers, and many others are expected to join the stoppage, which the Wales TUC has threatened to turn into an all-out strike in six weeks. The general council is "deeply concerned" about the prospects for all parts of the South Wales economy if the twin issues of steel closures and coal imports are not resolved soon.

TUC leaders have asked to see Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, to talk about "the financial problems affecting the nationalized industries, with special reference to the financial basis of BSC's operations." They will put before ministers a statement endorsed by the general council yesterday that if a reasonable accommodation over

the future of the threatened plants is not reached "the most serious industrial consequences would follow."

The risk of drifting into an unwanted general strike was brought up by Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader, who is chairman of the TUC National Industries Committee. It led to an inconclusive discussion, but several general council members said afterwards that majority opinion appeared to favour a militant response if the Government rejected the new overtures from the TUC.

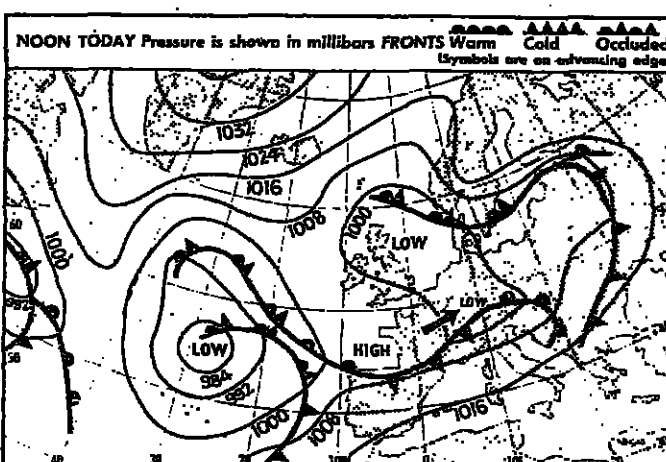
Ministers will be asked to suspend the BSC closure programme until its implications have been fully discussed with the TUC steel committee, which wants all three threatened plants retained as integrated steel-making centres. The union also wants the Government to subsidize output of British coke and curtail rising imports.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, would not be drawn on the nature of "the most serious industrial consequences" that might follow if the Cabinet failed to respond to renewed trade union pressure about the future of the steel and coal industries. He chided reporters for trying to lead him to the possibility of extended, official industrial action. "You are way ahead of the game."

The general council is in a quandary over the activities of its Wales regional arm. The Wales TUC has no constitutional authority to call a strike in the principality, but leaders at the council recognize the strength of feeling in South Wales which could gain ground elsewhere and force the general council to take the reins rather than leave a power vacuum that would be filled by the militant rank and file.

Tempting the steelmen, page 14

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts Warm Cold Occluded

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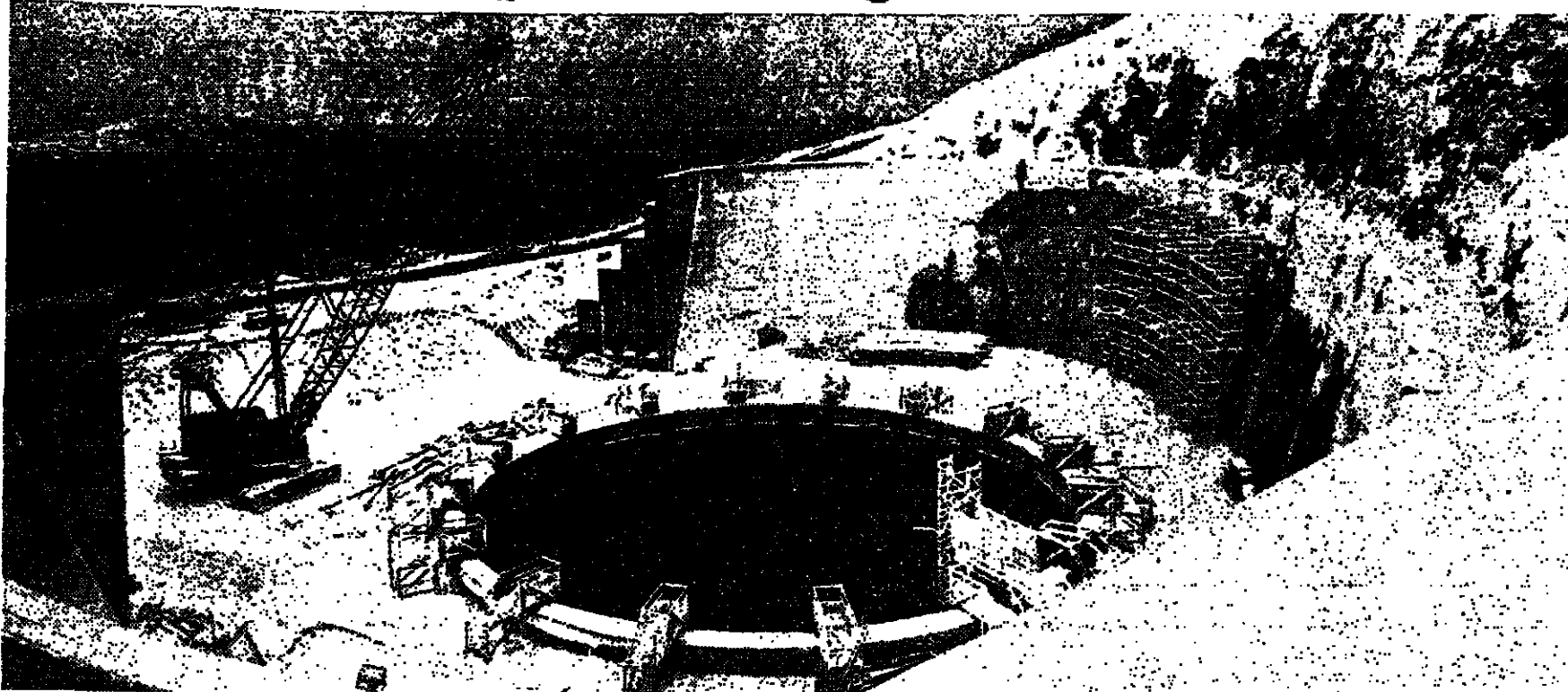
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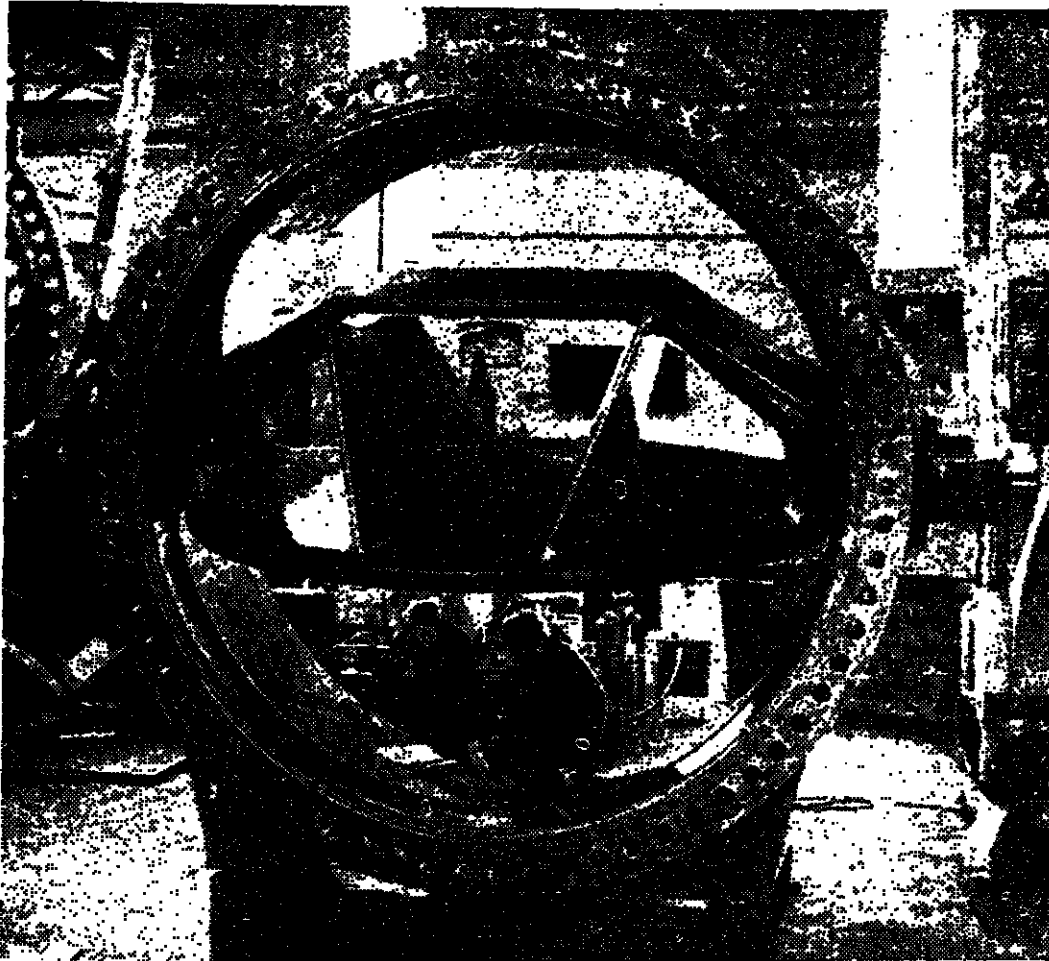
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HOME NEWS

Dinorwic: Where power will surge from a mountain's heart



The surge pond at the top of a vertical shaft which connects the low pressure tunnel from Marchlyn Mawr Lake, near the summit of the mountain, with the high pressure tunnels leading to the machines in the power station.



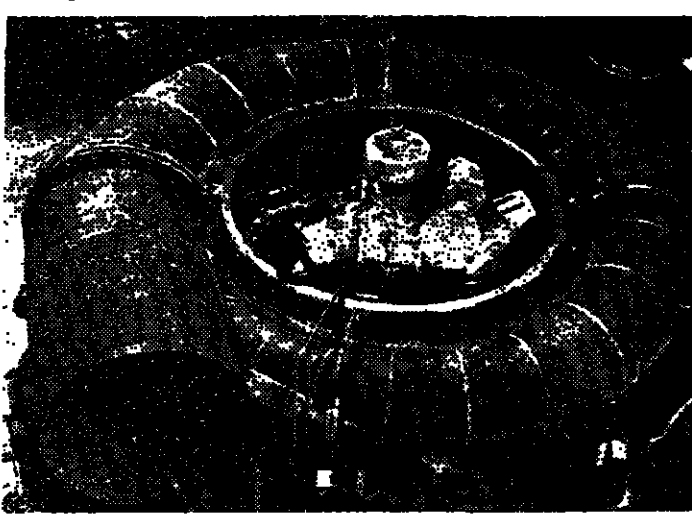
Above: Final assembly of one of the valves for Dinorwic power station. Right: The spiral casing of one of the six pump-turbines. The inlet diameter is 2.3 metres.

Emergency supply: Deep inside Eiddyr Mountain, close by dark and snow-capped Snowdon, three million tons of slate and granite have been extracted to form caverns to house Europe's largest pumped storage power station.

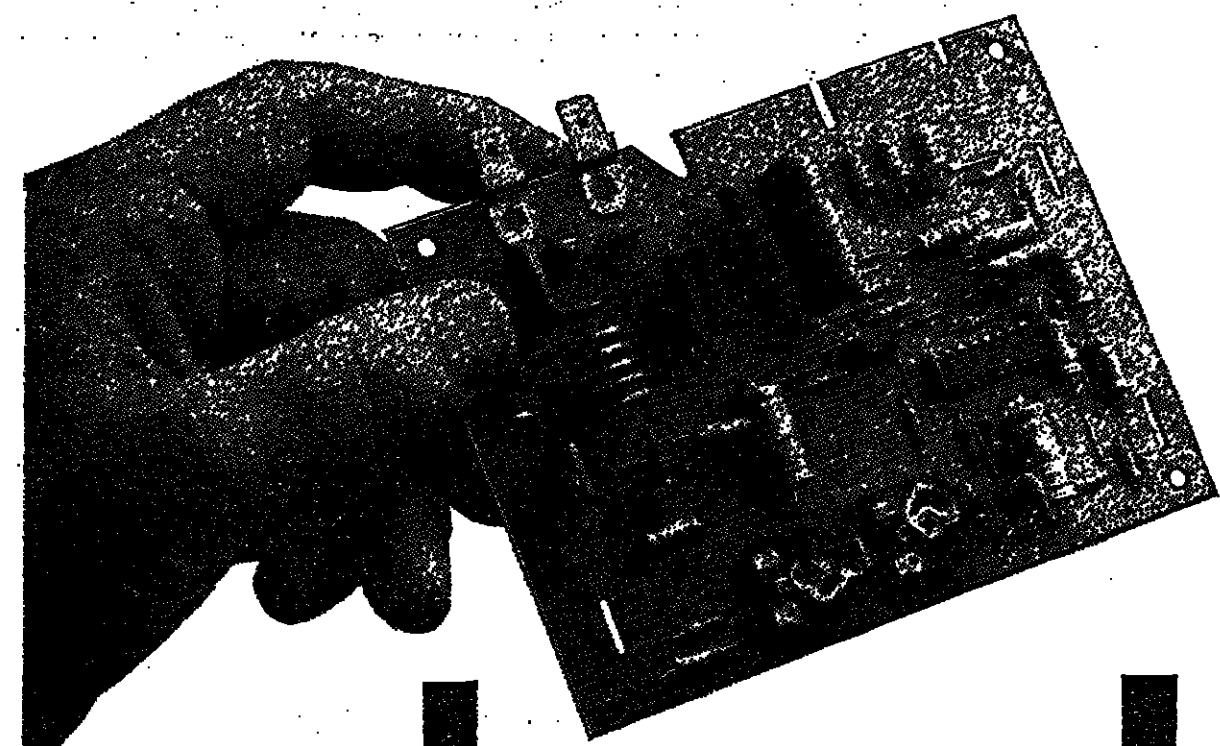
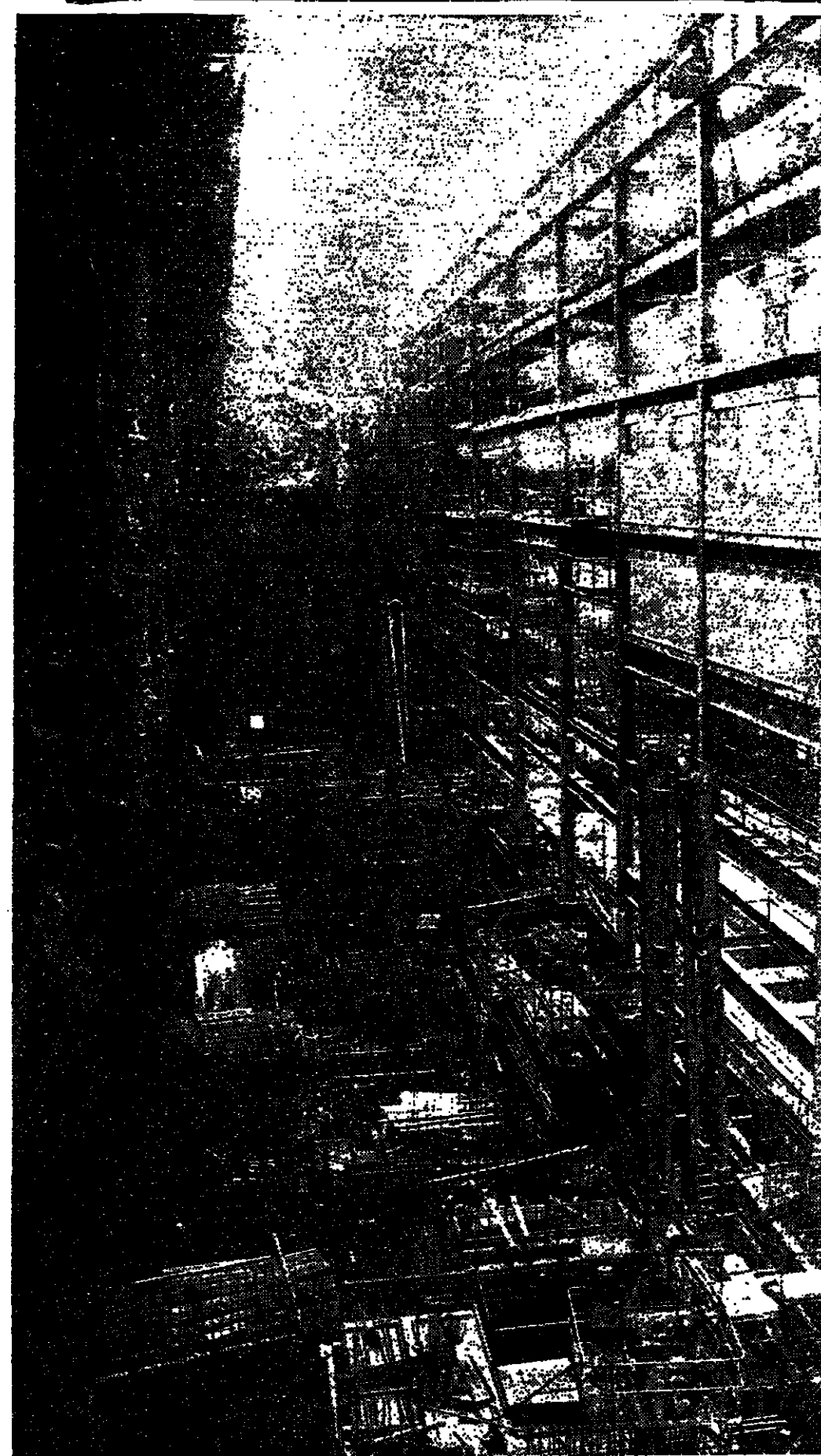
When it becomes operational in three years time, the station at Dinorwic, in Gwynedd, will provide a valuable emergency supply.

Should the Central Electricity Generating Board lose the power from two of its 660 MW turbo-generators at the same time, Dinorwic could be brought in to reach the equivalent output in

ten seconds. Even if it were never called upon to operate, it would save much money—represented by the extra cost of keeping some power stations operating as spinning reserves. When electricity is required, water from Marchlyn Mawr Lake will be released to tumble through the turbines to Llyn Peris, 1,640 feet below. At the end of the cycle, off-peak cheap-rate electricity will be fed to the generators, which will operate as motors, and the turbines used to pump water back up to Marchlyn Mawr. Photographs above and right by Dennis Risley; below and left, courtesy of Markham and Company.



Steelwork being erected in the machine hall inside the mountain where the generator-motors and pump-turbines will be installed. The ends of three of the high pressure tunnels can be seen at the foot of the rough-hewn rock wall on the left.



It'll wash your socks and dry your shirt.

This slim panel of Mullard components makes some of the latest washing machines tick.

It is a sophisticated electronic motor speed control, with a micro-circuit at the centre, and is an enormous advance in two ways.

Firstly, it makes washing machines a lot less complicated because—and you may find this a surprise—it replaces an entire heavy gearbox of wheels and cogs, standard parts at one time.

And you get a much better wash. With far greater, electronic, control over the acceleration and speed of the drum, your clothes tumble freely for better soap penetration, and form a single

evenly-distributed layer for much more effective spinning.

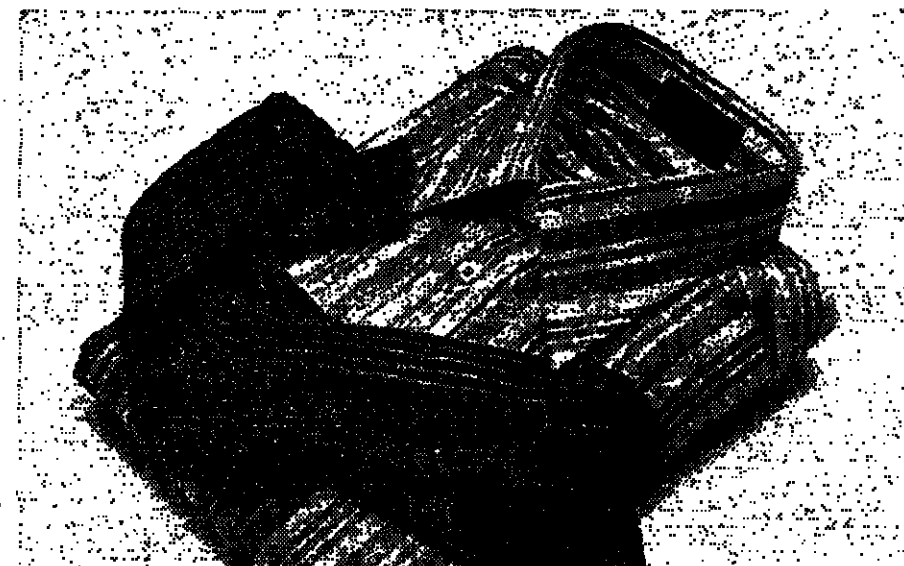
But this is not all. The latest temperature sensors are Mullard components as well, with programming and electronic timing systems soon to come—and there are other, energy-saving applications on the cards.

Tumble driers which heat your clothes not the air and switch off as soon as they're dry, for example.

Mullard are the largest producers of electronic components in this country and, right across the board, industry comes to us for some of the most advanced components technology available in the world today.

We, in return, are only too happy to co-operate fully and closely.

And that's a combined effort to keep things turning smoothly.



Mullard

A vital component in industry.



Mr George Sparks, aged 51, a lorry driver, of Linnet Close, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, was named by police yesterday as the man who was killed when he was run over by a 19-ton compressor at the Redlands Panshanger refuse pit at Welwyn Garden City on Tuesday. The compressor is used to crush rubbish.

WEST EUROPE

World View

Signor Berlinguer moves farther from Moscow

The return home of the French prodigal son may have dealt a death blow to Eurocommunism; but the life that remains in the separate limbs of the political body may be more than enough to provide a lot of trouble with a lot of problems.

Eurocommunism, as a unified movement of Western communist parties sharing a common ideology claiming to have universal value, had really been in trouble long before Afghanistan—ever since M. Marchais had reached the Berlinguer game in France he would only make M. Mitterrand stronger and the French Communist Party weaker.

Anyway, his Eurocommunism had always been thought of as an unconvincing, opportunistic imitation of a foreign example. Now his loudly proclaimed support for Moscow on Afghanistan has destroyed Eurocommunism as a cohesive political force.

This will comfort those who, like Dr. Kissinger, have never believed that "communism, through some magic, might become a democratic"; what M. Marchais has done today, Signor Berlinguer might do tomorrow even if on this occasion, having different domestic priorities, he has come out strongly against Moscow.

The fact that the Italian Communist Party condemns just as strongly any kind of Western reprisal and does its best to propagate Europe's "third-force", neutralistic approach to the present crisis, serves, after all, the objective interests of the Soviet Union.

When dealing with Eurocommunism, clear-cut explanations are always tempting, and may in the end even prove to be right. But in the meantime they are not quite satisfying, and anyway they are inadequate to explain even the nuisance value of Eurocommunism.

On this occasion, one point must be made clear to start with—the Italian Communist Party's condemnation of the Soviet

Italian party's new zest for Eurocommunism raises problems for the West and poses an ideological challenge for the Soviet Union

Union on Afghanistan has not been a perfunctory affair. Having made up their mind to condemn Moscow, the party's leaders realized this would shock their rank and file and decided to present their new line with all the force they had. This has become, for their party, an important political experience.

In order to make the new line more acceptable, Signor Berlinguer presented it as a European point of view, went personally to Strasbourg for the great debate and just failed to convince Herr Brandt to meet him there, but obtained instead a highly publicized visit of Signor Napolitano to Bonn. In Italy, every opportunity was taken to present the new line as a great European initiative of the party.

Finally, Signor Berlinguer provided a rare event—an ideological foundation for his new line. Ideology leaves non-communists cold, but it is important. In Moscow, *New Times* had argued that criticism by foreign communists ignored the fact that "international solidarity among revolutionaries involves not just verbal wishes of success", but also, "under extraordinary circumstances, material and even military assistance".

Signor Berlinguer answered that "international solidarity cannot involve intervention by states against the principle of (national) independence", not only because "socialism cannot be exported", but also because "the state of the world today is such that any act of force anywhere on earth, especially by one of the great powers, provokes reactions which endanger the peace of the world".

But this is exactly what the

West has been trying in vain to get Moscow to accept, as a necessary precondition for the survival of détente in today's "multipolar" world. Signor Berlinguer preaches the universalization of Khrushchev's co-existence: restraint should no longer apply only to East-West relations but to the whole world, even if this implies a limit to the theory of "international solidarity".

Such a heretical view, which is bound to strike a sympathetic chord among many Eastern Europeans, can only anger the people who decided on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Even if pleased by M. Marchais's repentance, the Russians must be upset by Signor Berlinguer's new progress along the Eurocommunist road, after a period of lethargy.

Once Eurocommunism becomes a mainly Italian affair, influenced by the domestic interests of the Italian Communist Party (more than ever hoped of becoming acceptable as a full partner in a government coalition), it may prove to be even more of a nuisance. A party that worries so much about the independence of Afghanistan could not be less firm in defending tomorrow Yugoslavia's autonomy.

But Moscow has not yet openly condemned the Italian party. Why? Does Moscow hope to get something out of Signor Berlinguer's new line, even though it "does not understand it" (as Mr. Vadim Zagladin, number two to Mr. Boris Ponomarev, said recently).

Undoubtedly, the party's renewed zest for Eurocommunism raises new problems for the West, as well as for the Russians. In the Strasbourg debate, the party ended by voting for

the Socialist resolution. But in exchange it got Europe's socialist parties to abstain, rather than vote against, its own resolution, even if this preached total inaction against the Russians. Who came out the winner?

It is not easy to see the implications of this event, but it reminds one of what Signor Andreotti told *Le Monde* three years ago, on being asked if and when the Italian Communist Party might become an acceptable government partner. He answered: "Maybe in the future there will be some clarification. If in Strasbourg the Communists were to become linked in some way with a front of the European democratic and socialist left, then the domestic situation in Italy might change a little."

At the time, the Italian Communists rebuked Signor Andreotti for making such a suggestion. But now, the Party's new hero is Helmut Schmidt. As P. Utiati proclaims, this may indeed produce some "little change" in Italy's political crisis.

I do not know if the final result of all this will be good or bad, for Italy and Europe, although the fact that the Italian party has moved along the Eurocommunist road cannot be regretted.

But when the party describes the present situation as "a crisis between the superpowers", as if Europe's vital interests were not threatened even more than America's and as if they could be protected without America, it shows that it has not yet really understood the dangers of Soviet imperialism.

Signor Berlinguer's "neutral Atlanticism" may be harmless, and even useful, but only if the rest of Europe shows firmness and unity with America in resisting Soviet adventurism. Will it be so?

Arrigo Levi
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OVERSEAS

Sithole candidate shot dead by gunmen at his home in Salisbury

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Jan 23

Police are looking for unknown gunmen who murdered a candidate in the Southern Rhodesian election outside his home in Salisbury last night.

Mr. Oliver Saunyama, a member of the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole's Zanu party, died instantly when two men with automatic weapons fired at least 40 bullets into his car as he was backing out of his driveway. The bullets were found to have been manufactured in a communist state.

Mr. Saunyama had six children and one of his sons witnessed the killing. The police and the political world are baffled by the murder because the dead man was not a controversial personality.

A party official said today: "We are shocked and mystified. He was a quiet man who just got on with his job."

Mr. Saunyama, a schoolteacher and the Zanu secretary for welfare, was standing in the Maitland electoral district.

A row has broken out between an African politician and Mr. Brian Stringer, the white chairman of Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia, because the latter is taking a calm view of the prospect of a Patriotic Front-Zanu (PF) victory in the election next month.

Mr. Stringer, a former Rhodesian Front MP and one of the most dynamic young business leaders in the country, was speaking in Salisbury. He had been alarmed by gloomy predictions made by the business community and said: "I am not suggesting an illogical, rash opinion, but even if the Patriotic Front-Zanu (PF) wins the election, as many people fear, it will not be the end of the world."

He discouraged people from making comparisons between Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola, because Rhodesia had a large skilled and sophisticated population, both black and white, a well disciplined police force and army and a devoted civil service.

Mr. Stringer's remarks aroused the ire of Mr. Ernest Bulle, who was Minister of

Commerce and Industry in Bishop Muzorewa's government and is second vice-president of the United African National Council led by the bishop.

He said that while no one claimed it would be the end of the world if the Patriotic Front (PF) came to power, what would end would be the Rhodesia known today because the country would be taken over by professed Marxist-Leninists.

If Mr. Stringer did not believe that he must be one of the most influential converts the former externally based parties had, Mr. Bulle said those who worked for parastatal corporations should stick to their jobs and leave politics to the politicians.

The Zambian Government has refused to recognize Rhodesian passports, even though trade and diplomatic links have been reestablished and the border has been opened. A Zambian Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that the decision stood "for the time being".

At least one white will oppose the Rhodesian Front in the election to the 20 seats allocated to whites in the assembly. He is Mr. Nicholas McNally, president of the small liberal National Unifying Force. He will stand as an independent in Salisbury against Mr. Christian Andersen, Minister of Justice in the current government. The Rhodesian Front, led by Mr. Ian Smith, is contesting all 20 seats.

Mugabe return: Mr. Richard Luce, Under-Secretary for Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs, refused to give a direct reply when asked in the Commons to refute "the damaging report in *The Times* that Mr. Robert Mugabe leader of Zanu (PF), could be banned from entering Rhodesia."

He told Mr. Peter Shore, opposition foreign affairs spokesman, that he understood Mr. Mugabe hoped to return very soon. Mr. Mugabe had detained 71 people in Mozambique and it was important that they be released if the Lancaster House agreement was to be fulfilled.



Miss Nightingale shows her glee at leaving prison.

Released nurse may be home by weekend

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Jan 23

Miss Rita Nightingale, the British nurse from Blackburn, Lancashire, who was released from prison here today after serving two years and 10 months of a 20-year sentence for attempted heroin smuggling, is likely to return to England by the weekend.

She was released from the women's prison on the outskirts of the city after King Bhumibol granted her clemency earlier in the week. Miss Nightingale appealed to the King in March.

She is spending tonight in a cell at the immigration division and must remain there until her papers have been put in order and she has an air ticket for London.

An official said that when the formalities had been completed she would be handed over to the British Embassy. She may be able to take a flight to London tomorrow or Friday.

As she left the prison Miss Nightingale, aged 26, said she was very grateful to the King of Thailand. She said she had become a Christian while in jail. "I believe that God helped me and I know people prayed for me around the world, particularly in Blackburn," she said.

"That faith kept me going."

I never gave up hope. That kept me all right in prison. I wanted to go back in England, Miss Nightingale said. "The first thing I want to do is to see my mother and my family."

Miss Nightingale was arrested in March 1977 at Bangkok airport and accused of attempting to smuggle 7.7 lb of heroin out of the country.

Her imprisonment following her refusal to plead guilty at the trial—which would normally have meant that her sentence would have been limited—led to outcries in Britain.

Suggestions in the British press that she might not have had the fairest trial and that her prison conditions were bad drew an angry editorial from the English language *Bangkok Post* newspaper, which said: "Let one thing be clear, endless court procedures established beyond doubt that Miss Nightingale was guilty of possession of heroin with intent to smuggle it out of the country." Now she has been released "it would be heartening to think that Miss Nightingale and the popular British press could recognize this act of leniency for what it is, but we are not optimistic about the chances."

—Reuter.

Euro-MP's threat of censure over butter sale

From David Wood
Brussels, Jan 23

Severe censure by European MPs of Mr. Roy Jenkins and the European Commission was angrily threatened yesterday in Brussels by Mr. James Scott-Hopkins, leader of the 64-strong European Democratic Group.

Reacting to Brussels reports in London newspapers about imminent resumption of EEC butter sales to Russia and a West German Commissioner's statement opposing economic sanctions against the Soviet Union, Mr. Scott-Hopkins said: "I have no doubt that were the Commission arrogantly to flout last week's decision by the European Parliament at the end of the Afghanistan debate, it would risk severe censure by the Parliament. Such a decision would be an affront to the Parliament."

Mr. Scott-Hopkins was reminding Mr. Jenkins of more than one fact. First, the European Parliament, having used to reject the Community Budget, also has the power to dismiss the Commission en bloc.

Second, the Commission, in its final year of office, is believed by Parliament to have lost much of its utility and is regarded even there as a lame duck while commissioners begin looking to their future.

Third, the European Parliament is already beginning to campaign behind the scenes for a say in the Council of Ministers' choice of the new commissioners who will take over on January 1, 1981.

Walker, Britain's Agriculture Minister, promised today to stop the EEC from exporting thousands of tons of cheap butter to Russia.

In the last few weeks the Russians have been buying as much food as possible in Europe, particularly butter, sugar and wheat.

The Russians want the food not just because of impending United States trade sanctions over the Afghanistan invasion, but also to cope with heavy demand resulting from the Moscow Olympic Games this summer.

They buy butter for about 30p a lb and quadruple the price in their own shops.

LEGAL FEES CUT FOR HOME BUYERS

The British Conveyancing School launched at a Press Conference in the House of Commons claims their students will save between £500 and £800 in legal fees when buying and selling their homes.

Alternatives to the conveyancing classes are private tuition or a correspondence course which is quickest of all. Every student receives The British Conveyancing School's written Guarantee of Success.

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Count of Paris denies part in assassination

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 23

The hazards of television programming produced a tangled bed-fellows. Immediately after M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, with his studied proletarian manner had filled the screen of the Second Channel on Monday, viewers were, without any transition, treated to the aristocratic dignity of the Count of Paris.

The pretender to the French throne was thumping through his family album, the first instalment of the television series on his memoirs.

The strain of regicide still lingers in the minds of many Frenchmen, and the Count of Paris, a somewhat royalist, the escutcheon of the Orleans line, since Philippe Egalité voted for the death of Louis XVI in 1793. It took some courage on the part of his direct descendant, the Count of Paris, to risk severe censure by the Parliament. Such a decision would be an affront to the Parliament."

The choice of January 21 was by no means fortuitous. It was designed to emphasize that since then it has become impossible for an act of violence in the face of history. It was therefore unthinkable that the present claimant to the throne could have ordered the assassination of Admiral Darlan in Algiers in 1942.

The controversy over Admiral

Darlan was revived in May, 1978, when M. Alain Deau, a member of the French Academy and one of the most popular contemporary French historians, with an eye for the piquant or little known incidents of the past, accused the Count of Paris of having ordered this assassination.

He quoted an eyewitness account by Mme Henri d'Assier de la Vigerie, the widow of a Resistance leader in Algiers, who heard the Prince saying in her Algiers flat where he was staying: "Darlan must be eliminated by every possible means."

The Count of Paris denied on Monday that he had ever said any such thing, or that he had ever stayed at the flat of Mme d'Assier de la Vigerie. He produced two witnesses on the screen.

The first was his driver-secretary, M. Pierre de Bérod, who denied categorically that the Prince had ever stayed at the flat of Mme d'Assier de la Vigerie. The second, M. Philippe Raguenau, a member of the French Resistance in Algiers, bluntly admitted that he had organized the admiral's elimination in order to keep the reputation of Free France unscathed.

Unimpressed by the witnesses of the Count of Paris, Mme d'Assier de la Vigerie in a letter to *Le Monde* yesterday expressed amazement that the Prince could claim he had never stayed at her home.

Coalition saved in Belgium

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 23

A successful salvage operation mounted by Mr. Wilfried Martens the Belgian Prime Minister, has ensured the survival for the time being of his precarious coalition Government, though without one of its previous members.

Three new ministers were sworn in today by King Baudouin to replace the three members of the small Brussels-based Democratic Front of the Flemish, who were expelled from the coalition last week.

The new ministers were all Flemish, and to maintain the constitutionally required linguistic balance.

At issue was the interpretation of controversial devolution reforms designed to change Belgium into a federal state with three main regions: Flanders (Dutch speaking), Wallonia (French speaking), and bilingual but French-dominated Brussels.

Mr. Martens's own party, the Flemish Christian Democrats, led by his predecessor as Prime Minister, Mr. Leo Tindemans, raised objections to a compromise proposal, and only backed down late last night.

Mr. Martens had previously won the support of the Walloon Socialists, but the compromise plan, which is to extend the transitional phase of the reforms until the end of 1984.

Milk cost EEC's taxpayers £2,870m in 1979

From Michael Horsby
Brussels, Jan 23

EEC milk production is running close to 20 per cent above the level of consumption, and last year about £2,870m, according to estimates in the European Commission's annual report on agriculture.

Forty-six per cent of this colossal sum—representing 43 per cent of all agricultural expenditure and 30 per cent of the entire EEC budget—went on subsidizing the export of butter and other dairy products at cut-rate prices to countries outside the Community.

A further 35 per cent was spent on buying up surplus produce to maintain dairy farmers' prices at guaranteed minimum levels, which are four times as high as those on the world market. Another 16 per cent was spent on storing surplus butter.

The report clearly identifies the dairy sector as the chief culprit responsible for the profligate EEC agricultural expenditure, which year after year consumes more than 70 per cent of the Community budget.

Paris lends a polite ear to Britain on budget problem

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 23

Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, said this evening that he had found the same willingness in Paris to solve the problem of Britain's contributions to the EEC budget as he had in the other capitals he had visited. The solution lay with an increase in Community spending in Britain, he told a press conference.

Figures were not discussed in his talks today with Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, or M. François-Poncet, the Foreign Minister. Nor was the question raised of devising some alternative form of Community membership for Britain, which has been aired in French Government circles since no one had disputed that Britain had a real problem. But only one third of Britain's problem related to its budget contributions.

Two thirds involved the inadequacy of Community spending in Britain. The gross contribution of France to the European budget was about the same as Britain's.

But French receipts from it were about double.

The trouble was that more than 80 per cent of Community expenditure at present was on agriculture. Britain had a small but efficient agriculture and did not therefore benefit much from this.

The Lord Privy Seal quashed French arguments that Britain bought too much food from outside the Community with the remark that 42 per cent of Britain's food was imported from its partners, while France imported 47 per cent. The answer clearly did not lie there.

He said that ideas had been discussed as to how Community spending in Britain could be stepped up. Finding suitable projects was no problem. He mentioned transport, coal and regional development as possibilities. The projects could be produced very rapidly.

As far as Britain was concerned, the problem had to be solved as soon as possible, and the solutions had to fit in with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget plans.

W German commercial radio in sight

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Jan 23

The Christian Democratic Prime Ministers of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein today announced a draft contract to set up a joint broadcasting corporation to replace Norddeutscher Rundfunk.

Social Democratic Hamburg, the third partner in the NDR, was left with the choice of joining the new corporation or, in other words, being excluded from its terms—which seemed unlikely.

The agreement also paved the way for the two governments to introduce private, commercial broadcasting for the first time in West Germany.

Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, said in Hanover that newspaper publishers should soon be given the opportunity to run a commercial radio programme.

The Christian Democratic politicians' determination to scrap the present broadcasting arrangements was prompted by anger at what they considered the left-wing bias of the NDR.

A four-hour strike by broadcasting workers, ostensibly to express concern about jobs on the NDR and also motivated by concern about political interference in broadcasting, was prevented at the last minute in

December by a court injunction. North German Social Democratic and Free Democratic politicians today accused the two Prime Ministers of setting up "Government radio and television".

The Hamburg Senate, the city-state's government, made no comment on today's announcement. Hamburg is challenging in the courts the right of the other two Länder to tear up the present contract.

The prospect of commercial broadcasting in West Germany has caused consternation among the Social Democrats who have been totally committed to the present public system.

Judge holds up evidence in Ford car case

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 23

The judge in the Ford Pinto trial in Indiana, in which the Ford Motor Company is accused of reckless homicide, has made a ruling which could prevent the prosecution from introducing crucial evidence against the company.

He said yesterday that the prosecution could not use documents to support his argument that Ford knew about defects in the Pinto car unless he first proved that the documents were not forgeries.

Fords are on trial in connection with the death of three young women in the crash of a Pinto in 1978. A van ran into the back of their car, which burst into flames, as other Pintos have done.

An important part of the state's case is that Ford knew that the car was unsafe but decided not to make it safer because it would cost too much. The disputed documents, which the prosecution says are memoranda circulated internally within the company, would have helped support that contention.

Michael Wheeler, a lawyer for Fords, argued yesterday that the company did not accept that the documents were genuine unless the prosecution could prove it. Judge Harold Staffeldt agreed that this would have to be done before they could be admitted as evidence before the jury.

Mr. Michael Cosenzo, the chief prosecutor, was in a rage as he left the court yesterday, saying that his case had been seriously damaged. A number of other rulings by the judge last week placed a limitation on the type of documents he could produce in evidence.

Evidence in the first few days of the trial has focused on the circumstances of the crash.

vice-president for public affairs, was turning yesterday at what he called the "censorship policies" of the three stations, all owned by the Washington Post.

The advertisements to which they had objected, he said, were about the subjects of over-regulation by government, the need for economic growth and for higher profits for industry.

The text of the fables had, he said, already appeared in the *Washington Post* and other newspapers as part of a controversial series which Mobil

have been running to press their views on these issues. In particular, the advertisements were sharply critical of the windfall profits tax which the Administration is seeking to impose on oil companies.

The advertisements are to be screened before and after each of the six instalments of the series, which are being shown without the usual commercial breaks. An official of the Hartford television station said company policy forbade the use of advertisements involving "advo-

cacy of positions on matters of public importance or concern."

She said that one reason was that groups which opposed Mobil's views on these matters might demand equal time.

"I don't accept their policy," Mr. Schmetz said. "They're preventing the American people from having access to one point of view."

Mobil have made a heavy investment in promoting the series, which begins tonight on commercial stations across the country.

THE WAR ON WILDLIFE—UNITED STATES STYLE



The raccoon in this picture is pinned by the jaws of a leghold trap (what you British once termed a gin trap). This trap is banned in the United Kingdom because it is a barbaric torture device.

The leghold trap is still the most common trapping device in the United States, and the United Kingdom is a major purchaser of U.S. furskins.

Can morality transcend political borders? Should the U.S. export furs to countries where the trap is banned? Should the U.K. permit the importation of such products of immorality?

We Americans ask your help in making the leghold trap as unacceptable in our country as it is in yours. You can help stop this tragic war on wildlife by writing a strong letter of protest to Hon. Kingman Brewster, U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom, 24/31 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE. We'd appreciate a copy of your letter.

If the people of the world cannot force governments to make peace with nature, they'll never stop governments from making war on mankind.

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS, INC.,

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A not for profit organization. President: Alice Herrington

The cost of this announcement was paid by Regina Bauer Frankenberger.

OVERSEAS

Gandhi Government making big effort to dissuade Pakistan from accepting more US weapons

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Jan 23

With President Reddy declaring today that recent developments in Afghanistan had highlighted "the re-emergence of the cold war" between the two superpowers, India is stepping up its diplomatic efforts to persuade Pakistan not to accept United States offers of fresh arms supplies.

Whether Indian diplomats really believe in the exercise being undertaken or are only going through the motions to buy Mrs Gandhi's new Government, Mr R. D. Sathie, permanent secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, is to be dispatched to Islamabad shortly in what is described as a prelude to ministerial visits, all in the spirit of the Simla agreement between the two nations.

President Reddy, who was giving an outline of the programme of Mrs Gandhi's Government at the opening of the new Parliament, insisted that the countries of the region should be allowed to develop their energies to the promotion of regional stability and co-operation. "To subject these countries to big power rivalries is totally unacceptable to us," he said.

Worries over Afghanistan forced Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the External Affairs Minister, to intervene today on the Lok Sabha (Lower House). The Soviet Union, the United States, and China had all been told that no action should be taken which would make the dangers to the region more acute, he said.



President Reddy: A warning on big power rivalries.

In a veiled warning to Pakistan regarding arms, Mr Rao said nothing should be done to cause a setback to the normalization process under the 1972 Simla agreement.

Mr Sathie, the chief permanent official in the External Affairs Ministry, is expected to go to Islamabad early next month after the visit to Delhi of Mr Clark Clifford, the former American Defence Secretary who is being sent by President Carter, and of Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, left Delhi today for Islamabad where the Indians hope he will help prepare the ground for meetings between

the two countries which would bring their attitudes to the Soviet intervention somewhat closer.

The Gandhi Government's domestic programme contained no surprises. The "20-point economic programme" launched shortly after the declaration of the emergency in June, 1975, is to be revived and "implemented in a dynamic manner". Smugglers, hoarders and black marketers were warned that they face "stringent action".

The law enforcement agencies are to be strengthened. Delhi police have already taken the hint, organising raids in Old Delhi's trading community and putting some 600 more policemen on street patrols to combat crime.

The Government today reiterated its commitment to the freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary. While the revival of the "20 point programme" was loudly cheered by the new MPs, an assurance on press freedom was heard in silence.

Waldheim return: Dr Waldheim said in Islamabad he had cut short his visit to South Asia to return to New York as quickly as possible because of a tense international situation arising from events in Afghanistan and Iran. The Secretary-General, who cancelled a visit to Nepal and stopped in Pakistan for only six hours, said he would consult the Security Council this week on both issues.—Reuter.

Psychiatric interview film shown in news programme

'Hollywood strangler' on TV

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Jan 23

Television viewers in southern California, recently, might have been excused for thinking they had tuned in on a scene from a film or play.

On the screen a young, handsome man was coolly and dispassionately explaining in detail how he and his cousin had murdered 10 women over a period of more than a year.

However, it was not a fiction writer's fantasy nor something from a true detective drama, but film shot in a prison hospital at Bellingham, Washington.

The man in front of the camera was Kenneth Bianchi, aged 28, a former security guard. Not only was he confessing to the crimes but he was also implicating his cousin, Angelo Buono, in the series of killings that Los Angeles detectives had described as the work of the "Hollywood Hillside Strangler".

There were two things remarkable about the film. First, that the tapes—part of about 56 hours of psychiatric interviews of a man who was supposedly under hypnosis—were being aired on local tele-

vision news programmes: second, that they were getting such wide exposure before Mr Buono comes to trial.

The screenings, however, this week prompted Mr James Brustman, of Santa Ana, Mr Buono's lawyer, to carry out a poll to see if people had indeed been watching. He is, naturally, concerned that his cousin would be impossible to find an unbiased jury for the trial, which is due to begin in the Spring and could last for four months.

Even in California, where bizarre murders are not so unusual, the Hillside Strangler case is out of the ordinary. For more than a year police hunted the killers, who raped and strangled the young women, many of them prostitutes. The case was unsolved until last year when Mr Bianchi was arrested in Washington state and accused of killing two young women there.

He admitted his guilt, and then—to the astonishment of local detectives, confessed to the Hollywood murders, implicating his cousin who was a local car business in Hollywood.

Mr Bianchi made a deal with the Washington district attorney. In return for escaping

the death penalty in Washington he agreed to give evidence against his cousin in California.

After a trial in Washington Mr Bianchi was sentenced to life imprisonment for the two local murders and then underwent psychiatric interviews. The psychiatrists who filmed all the interviews said Mr Bianchi was suffering from a split personality and during interrogations four separate personalities emerged.

One of them named "Steve" was asked how he decided to kill the women in Hollywood. "We were just sitting around and I asked Angelo [Buono] if he ever killed anybody. He said, 'I don't know, why do you want to know?' I said, 'Well, what does it feel like?' He said, 'I don't know,' and I said, 'Well, we should find out sometime.' He said, 'Sure, okay.' And we did."

Mr Buono's lawyer says he expects to use the tapes in his client's defence. "They are vital to judging the credibility of Mr Bianchi," Mr Brustman said. Mr Buono has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Curfew ends Malaysian rice protest

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 23

The Malaysian Government today imposed a round-the-clock curfew in part of the northern town of Alor Setar, 200 miles from Kuala Lumpur, after the police used tear gas to disperse 10,000 demonstrators who were demanding higher prices.

Datuk Haji Majid Ahmad, the chief of police for the states of Kedah and Perlis, said tonight that the demonstrators became unruly and tried to storm the state government offices.

Datuk Syed Nahar, the chief minister of Kedah, tonight blamed militant groups for having instigated the demonstration which he said was politically motivated and had little to do with the rice subsidy scheme.

A police spokesman said that about 90 people were held for questioning and a few hundred demonstrators caught when the curfew took effect are in the compounds of a mosque.

The farmers are also demanding cash instead of the recently introduced subsidy coupons. Curfew is in force until further notice but indications are that it would be relaxed tomorrow.

In an effort to keep rice prices under control, the Government had fixed prices at which an official agency would purchase rice from farmers. But that price has always been much less than what the farmers could receive from private traders.

Threat to ancient Babylon from underground water

Baghdad, Jan 23.—The

deserted city of Babylon, whose hanging gardens were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, is in danger of destruction by underground water flows, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

One of the solutions being studied is to divert the Hella river, a branch of the Euphrates, which crosses the region, but experts fear this would lower the water level by only 15ft instead of the 20 metres needed, and not stop water seeping into the city.

But any more radical diversion would change the environment of the ruined city, 35 miles south of Baghdad. Other ideas being considered include the sinking of several wells to collect the water, or the construction of deep insulating

walls between the city and the river.

An international conference is being considered to discuss proposals to drain the land. The meeting will be preceded by an Iraqi national seminar.

Meanwhile experts hope to uncover several important sites in the area of the latest round of digs which is expected to last about eight years.

A dispute is developing on the position of the hanging gardens. The city's Director General of Antiquities, Dr Moayed Said, told INA that the latest studies showed the gardens were in a different position from the accepted site. But another expert said these were only the wheat and wine stores of King Nebuchadnezzar, built along the Euphrates about 600 BC.—Agence France-Presse.

Bolivian election sets stage for civilian rule

La Paz, Jan 23.—A General Election will be held in Bolivia on June 29. A decree by Señora Lidia Gueiler, the interim President, said the new head of state and Congress could take over on August 6.

This will be the country's third attempt in three years to consolidate a civilian government after almost a decade of military rule.

In November Señora Walter Guevara Arze, the interim head of state, was toppled by a military coup.—Reuter.

Peking article implies removal of commander

Peking, Jan 23.—Chen Niliang, a member of the Chinese Politburo, has been removed from the important post of commander of the Peking military region, the People's Daily indicated.

In a report on how army units were helping to maintain social order, the newspaper named the Peking region commander as Qin Jiwei, formerly the region's first political commissar.

Chen Niliang is believed to have been under a political cloud for some time.—Reuter.

Uganda editor held over killings report

From Charles Harrison
Kampala, Jan 23

The editor of the Government-owned Uganda Times, Mr Ben-Bella Jakut, was taken from his office here today by plain clothes police after his newspaper had reported that three civilians were shot dead by Tanzanian troops who rounded up villagers at Kajansi, eight miles south of Kampala, earlier this week.

Members of the newspaper staff said the editor had telephoned to state he was being held at Criminal Investigation Department headquarters. The incidents at Kajansi began when three Tanzanian soldiers were beaten to death after allegedly stealing beer and other goods from villagers. The reaction of the Tan-

zanian troops is taking revenge on the entire village is far from untypical in Africa. But it has revived local hostility to the Tanzanians who have remained in Uganda since ousting former President Idi Amin in April.

By agreement with the Tanzanian Government, the Tanzanian troops are normally confined to barracks and few of them are seen in the streets. But their reaction to the Kajansi incident, apparently taken without reference to the Ugandan authorities, has shocked Ugandans.

British aid: Britain is to supply £4m in aid to Uganda during the 1980-81 financial year. A British aid team has been sent to Uganda to discuss with Ugandan officials with a view to a £2.4m which will be used

to help restore the Ugandan cotton crop.

The British team was told that cotton production for 1979-80 would be low because the normal planting season had coincided with the drought which ousted former President Amin. The chaos since then has discouraged farmers from planting cotton and many cotton gineries are out of action. There are few vehicles to transport the cotton.

However, many Ugandans feel that British aid is so small that it will do little to revive a shattered economy. The British answer is that few specific proposals for aid have been put forward by Uganda. In spite of its great needs, and that better planning is needed at the Ugandan end.

A Times Special Offer

Will the real Bernard Levin please sign here



Oh yes, I nearly forgot to say: he writes the rest of us into a cocked hat, though I have never quite got the picture of that metaphor. He touch-types with eight fingers and one thumb, which is a rattling approach to those of us who use only one finger. He is the fastest, most prolific, and most professional of scribblers. For those who ask what he is really like, the answer is, as with most writers, read his pieces.

Not before time he has collected some of them in a book: nothing much about home politics, a dreary theme, which dates, but lots of other stirring and hilarious stuff from the story of his mother and the Gas Board and John Cheekyaffair to Solzhenitsyn and a voyage around his window box. Hopefully (an absolute use to vex the stylist Bernard, meaning I hope and wish luck) another book follows later this year, and more, and more, and more, stretching out to the crack of doom, which, if you listen to Bernard on a bad day, is not far off.

Addicts of Bernard Sweet and Sour can buy a Times special offer of the book photographed by the little Master's own fair (actually rather spiky) hand. For those of us (like him) who wake in the black and middle of the night with the horrors that we shall sleep no more, for when the rascal goes on holiday guzzling and soaking up music, for having between hard covers some of the most original and funniest, most rational and most emotional journalism available in Britain today, it is an irresistible offer.

Will that do, Bernard dear?

Philip Howard

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A movable feast

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

A winter picnic is an event which generally occurs of necessity. Fishing rods, guns, horses, boats, aircraft, motor cars and their admirers figure frequently in the need to provide food fit for eating in the teeth of a gale or the back of a Mini. Househunting, blowing some fresh air into the children, or going any distance on Sundays are other causes.

A picnic is also increasingly necessary for railway journeys, despite the cups and cutlery, promises of the timetables and telephone calls to check that lunch will be served. I cannot be the only traveller who has been caught once too often by shattered buffets and deserted dining cars.

January is not the month for lolling on the grassward nibbling bits of cold chicken and sipping white wine cooled in a conveniently nearby stream. Midwinter picnics call for mugs of hot, substantial soup, rolls with fortifying fillings, hunks of farmhouse fruit loaf, and a nip of something for the spirits.

Plan for the worst case, filthy weather and eating in the car, train or bus-shelter, then and this better is bound to be a cheering improvement. Forget plates and fancy containers and cutlery. Fill a Thermos with scalding soup and pack

everything else in individual portions that can be passed round easily in cramped quarters. Take a damp cloth for wiping fingers and yards of kitchen roll for bibs, spills and adult knees. Don't forget the mugs, and have a nice day.

Mulligatawny, oxtail and thick minestrone are hearty soups which survive long hours in a vacuum flask. So does goulash soup, the lunchtime staple of skiers in Austria. Serve it with light or dark rye bread speckled with caraway seeds, or with generously buttered granary rolls.

Goulash soup

Serves four

2 tablespoons bacon fat or beef or pork dripping

1 large onion, finely chopped
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon chilli powder
225g (8oz) braising steak, diced
Salt
1 small clove garlic, crushed
1 teaspoon caraway seeds
1 red or green sweet pepper, deseeded and diced
1 large tomato, chopped
225g (8oz) potatoes, peeled and diced

Melt the fat in a large pan, add the onion and fry until it is soft but not coloured. Take the pan off the heat and stir in the paprika and chilli. The point of this is to avoid caramelizing the paprika which could give the soup a bitter

flavour. Add the meat, salt, garlic, caraway seeds and a tablespoon of water. Return the pan to the heat, cover and simmer gently. Stir frequently, adding sufficient water to prevent the mixture sticking, until the meat is almost tender. Never try to hurry braising or stewing beef on a high heat or it will toughen and no amount of cooking will make it tender.

Add the sweet pepper, tomato and potatoes and about 1.25 litres (2½ pints) of water and simmer the soup uncovered until the meat is tender, and the potato is breaking up.

As with many soups, it does not hurt to make this one the day before it is to be eaten. It tastes even better. Rich fruit loaves, the kind that fall somewhere between bread

and cake, also improve with keeping a day or two. Serve plain or buttered.

Farinhouse fruit loaf
225g (8oz) plain flour
110g (4oz) butter
110g (4oz) stoned muscatels or seedless raisins
110g (4oz) dates or figs, chopped
110g (4oz) crisp apple, peeled and chopped
55g (2oz) walnuts, chopped
55g (2oz) soft brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
150ml (5fl oz) milk
3 tablespoons runny honey or syrup

Sift the flour into a large bowl and dice the butter into it. Rub in the butter until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Add the muscatels, figs, chopped apple, walnuts and sugar, and mix well.

Combine the baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, milk and honey and stir into the dry ingredients. The mixture should have a stiff dropping consistency and may need a little more milk. Spoon the mixture into a loaf tin about 20cm by 10cm (8in by 4in) which has been well greased and lined with greaseproof paper. Bake the loaf in the centre of a moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 1½ to 2 hours, or until it is well risen and firm to the touch. Turn it out and cool on a wire rack. When it is quite cold, store in an airtight container.

Humble pie
I would like to apologise to Chef René Bédard of Le Gavroche for describing him in last week's column as Chef Ronsay. His English is not as good as his cooking, and my French is plainly bad.

Ten years old and still growing

"I'm always hungry, exhausted and shouting at my children. Finding accommodation is practically impossible. We never eat fruit or go out anywhere, because there just isn't the money." There were deep shadows under Mim Harper's eyes. The strain of struggling to keep a job and bring up her two children single-handed showed in her pinched face and in the impression of tenseness she gave.

The date was early 1970. The only bright spot, Mim said, was that for the past few weeks she had no longer felt so completely on her own. An article in *The Sunday Times* about the problem of lone parents had sparked off hundreds of letters, following which about a dozen people had met and formed a group called Gingerbread. The aim Mim declared was to become a national self-help organization for single-parent families.

Tomorrow is celebration day. Ten years after the article that started it all, Mim Harper and about 25 other founder members and key activists, past and present, are holding a special

reunion. More elaborate celebrations are planned for Easter when, to coincide with its annual general meeting, Gingerbread is organizing "the largest self-celebrating holiday in the world". It is taking place in North Wales, and 8,000 members and their children are expected to attend.

Gingerbread's achievements are impressive. Nearly 400 local groups now meet regularly throughout the country, with a collective membership of about 15,000. They offer lone parents a mixture of practical and moral support. Frequent social activities are arranged and down-to-earth help is provided in the form of shared baby-sitting and other exchange services. Many groups operate local advice centres, housing schemes or day care facilities for youngsters.

From its national headquarters, Gingerbread gives advice on financial, welfare and other matters, runs a penfriend scheme, and keeps an accommodation register for parents wanting to share a home. Information sheets are available on a variety of subjects including

supplementary benefits, family law and housing, and there is a monthly magazine called *Ginger*. Through its holiday company, formed in 1976, Gingerbread offers a range of low-cost family holidays.

Additionally, by dint of research, publicity, liaison with other organizations and contact with government, Gingerbread acts as a voice for lone parents by drawing attention to the special needs of one-parent families.

If Gingerbread seems to have grown like Topsy, the reason for its many initiatives is that they directly reflect its members' problems: Loneliness; lack of information; housing difficulties; poverty; the juggling act of trying to combine a job with care of the children; practical difficulties like not knowing how to change a fuse; or, in the case of a man, the initial feeling of inadequacy when faced with the cooking and ironing.

Julie Kaufmann says that before she joined Gingerbread she had not realized that her problems were so widely shared.

The four most urgent needs, Mr Thomas says, are: substantial up-rating of child benefits; more day care facilities; the introduction of family courts; willingness by government and local authorities to help single parents to help their children.

Since Gingerbread's immediate plans include extending its counselling services, launching more children's holiday and after-school care projects, and seeking charitable status, it is to be able to raise more money for more self-help action, there is certainly plenty to keep it busy for the next 10 years.

Gingerbread caters for all categories of single parents: the divorced, separated, widowed, unmarried or those whose partners may be in hospital or prison. Members vary in age from about 19 to 60, with the majority in the 25 to 45 bracket. Most local groups charge a modest annual subscription. For further details, see local telephone directories or contact the headquarters, 35 Wellington Street, London, WC2.

Rosemary Brown

ENTERTAINMENTS

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OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN CC 350 1066
The Royal Opera
Tonight 7.30: The Sleeping Beauty
Sat. 25.0. The Sleeping Beauty
Sun. 26.0. The Sleeping Beauty
Lunch 1.30. The Sleeping Beauty
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THEATRES

KINGS HEAD, 226 1916. Dnr 7. Show
The Royal Opera
Tonight 7.30: The Sleeping Beauty
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Sun. 26.0. The Sleeping Beauty

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THE ARTS



Family life: And Quiet Falls the Day

How Calcutta crumbles

Bangalore
India's annual film festival this year, which was the first to be held in the city, is a triumph. As it happens, the festival is also a triumph for the city's film industry, which has been struggling for some time. The festival is a triumph for the city's film industry, which has been struggling for some time.

New York, New York and The Last Waltz proved to be without any scenes, the audience snatched the show, broke seats and windows, and demanded their money back. When La Marseillaise was screened in the course of a memorial tribute to Jean Renoir, the berserk public marched on the projection booth, determined to wreak vengeance on the very reels of film.

After the first few days, however, Bangalore got the hang of the affair; the libidinous audience looked for their erotic kicks elsewhere, and left the films to a still sizable audience whose responses to new movie experiences were characteristically quick, intelligent and uninhibited.

For the festival's foreign guests, the major interest centres on the now annual Indian Panorama, which collects up a score of the most original new films of the year. Of the major established directors, Shyam Benegal (whose Junoon is still doing well at the Academy) offered no new film; and Satyajit Ray's The Elephant God had already been seen at the London festival.

The career of Ray's Bengali fellow-countryman and contemporary, Mrinal Sen, has seemed recently to go from peak to peak, and his new picture, And Quiet Falls the Day, is perhaps his best and most subtle to date. The action centres on a night in the crumbling Calcutta apartment where a lower middle-class family struggle to maintain appearances. The eldest daughter and breadwinner fails to arrive home from work at her usual hour. As it becomes later and later, the family's searches around the city morgues and hospitals and police stations hint at all sorts of seamy possibilities: the night drabs on; the tension exposes fits and resentments; ordinary concerns of the course of everyday life, in the small hours, the girl returns, serene, without explanation. The crisis is over; but the shock has jolted the family out of their complacencies about their lives.

Sen's films are characteristically mordant, critical, acutely sensitive to nuances of social and human relationships. In this new film he reveals an expressionist strength in his images, aided by the fine colour camerawork of K. K. Mahajan.

Political events in no way overshadowed the film festival. The event moves annually around the major production centres, and this year arrived in Bangalore, state capital of Karnataka. Production there is comparatively small (only around 60 of the annual output of 700 feature films) but the audience is reckoned the most enthusiastic in the country. Embassies can be drawn to the festival, and the Bangalore audience showed great gratitude for a festival programme that brought them as fine a selection of recent production from The Marriage of Maria Braun and Carolee Bagg as Night on the Bare Floor. The festival has any international event has fielded in the last 12 months.

The promise of uncensored Western films aroused, rather, the most lurid expectations, and there were riots when these expectations were disappointed. When Moie, Tim Tin and Sen's films are characteristically

David Robinson

Hughie Cottesloe

I hope Bill Bryden will take it as a compliment when he says that the production of this O'Neill duologue releases you (after barely an hour) with all the sensation of having spent a long evening in the theatre. Audience conversation in the Cottesloe on Tuesday fell to dead silence well before we heard a line of the text: there was too much already happening on the stage. The eye takes in a bleak hotel lobby, its fancy swing doors belying the shabby interior, the pink sign of the Manhattan Elevated Railway glowing from the street, and, enthroned at the matchwood reception desk, the motionless figure of the night clerk, a pallid emblem of the nocturnal city barely more human than his surroundings.

Hayden Griffin and Andy Phillips, the design and lighting team responsible for the Cottesloe's O'Neill season, once again took the spectator into the O'Neill prison house where it is permanently three o'clock in the morning.

Hughie, a miniature companion piece to The Iceman Cometh on the necessity of comforting illusions, tells the story of Eric Smith, a small-time gambler and Broadway sport of the 1920s, returning in the midtown dump where for the past 15 years he has found consolation for each day's humiliations by playing the big-shot to the gullible night clerk, Hughie. Hughie is drunk and Ernie is sober, shattered with drink, debts, and exhaustion, but unable to go to bed until he has found somebody to prop up his sagging ego.

The play consists of a virtually uninterrupted monologue in which Eric gives away the sad pretensions and failures of social, not physical. However, Paxton still describes their relationship as partnering each other and the result as an "improvised conversation".

The tone of Paxton's dancing and Moss's playing is certainly conversational, not theatrical. The virtuosity of Paxton can command (as we know from his days dancing with Merce Cunningham) is hidden; instead he adopts a mainly pedestrian pace, simple gestures, a casual gait. Moss plays a bawdy, percussive instruments, including some that look more like sculpture or bathroom implements, and makes mouth-music with a kind of gobbled, garbled speech.

Each spends part of the time doing nothing, but concentrate on what the other is performing. When music and dance are simultaneous, there is no obvious rhythmic connexion; it is mood and intention they are responding to. It makes a quiet, self-possessed performance, a rare forward with great skill and an amiable manner, interesting on its own terms.

Those terms leave out many qualities which most spectators look for in the theatre. Just what is omitted can be seen in the last monologue, when, in what look like encores, the performers introduce a greater variety of pace and display of bravura. Paxton's work has to be valued mainly for what it achieves in searching out new possibilities for dance, rather than for a finished theatrical product.

David Moss, and their contact is

some later date she will develop the mature musical personality which will fulfil her present potential as an artist.

The scale of her performance was decidedly on the small side, and the orchestral playing had a kindly restraint in matching her to a former level of musical sensibility with the advent of Claudio Abbado as principal conductor, although neither can afford to coast along on the reputation of the other as occasionally seemed to be the case on Tuesday. Rather too much of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony was allowed to unfold almost casually at the start of the programme, except when the conductor decided to impart some additional measure of expressive character, with a portentous weight of phrasing in measured tempo that then made Schubert sound a close relation of Tchaikovsky.

He certainly gave watchful support in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto to the gifted Anne-Sophie Mutter, who was making her first London appearance with a British orchestra at the age of 16. Since her first boost by Karajan on Tuesday, Mutter has been a regular at the Royal Opera, and has evidently kept firm enough control over herself to perform the most lyrical of concerto classics with cool assurance and a sparkling, infectious quality of silken tone, and immaculate intonation. It is hoped that at

Listening to her sing you could hear a cuddly little girl's sound in her voice, and you realized that all that wickedness and wildness is just self-provoked imaginary stuff. For tempts at producing some mid-Atlantic version of the Duende the soul songs, she is just Shirley Temple kidnapped by a simply her youth. But Mrs Lovich comes highly recommended to us from the people who spend their time listening out for what is new among the kids of today.

She is no Piaf. Arena did her proud however. There was some imaginative work with the camera. She was seen viewing the Berlin Wall. It was all very stark, grim, and horrid. Her dark blue eyes looked set to bubble with grief. Then she sang a song called You Can't Kill Me: "You can blow me up with an atom bomb", she sang. "But I'll be right back and I won't take long".

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Beryl Reid on the winning way

Maud is a seventy-year-old Bristol lady who talks to television announcers, having first turned the sound down to make sure that they cannot answer back. In Peter Nichols's new comedy, Born to the Gods, which opened at the Globe last night, she is played by Beryl Reid, a sixty-year-old Hereford lady who started out in a concert party at the Floral Hall, Bridlington, in 1936 and has seldom looked back.

"Like Queen Victoria, I am not interested in the possibility of defeat. Not that I find acting easy, just that it's all I can do, so it has to be done. The last thing I did on television was the ex-MIS lady with Alec Guinness in Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy; the whole scene was full of very long Russian names, and I was so hot up about forgetting them that when they started shooting I had to open the door and there stood Alec and all I could say was 'Oh, God, now I've forgotten your name'."

It was only George Sneyly, quite simply really, that had been for all the Russians. Then I got home and they rang up to say there'd been a fault on the camera, and we'd have to do the whole scene again the next week, so I had to rush down to the village shop and buy a children's exercise book and write out my whole part before I forgot it again."

Her mother came from Edinburgh, father was an estate agent in Aberdeen. She had one brother, a research scientist who died last year, and two husbands.

"First of all Bill Worsley, nice man but behaved a bit like a U-boat. I was married to Derek Franklin only for a short while, and he was a sort of grew apart and he pecked up and left. Since then I've been, well, not living on my own exactly but not married either if you know what I mean."

At 16 Beryl Reid went to work in Manchester at Kendal Milnes: "Father said it was the Harrods of Manchester and it was; he also said I'd get a pension if I stayed long enough, which was just as well as they only paid nine and threepence a week. We juniors had to take our lunch back at

The big time came after the war when she met her "Monica" and "Marlene" monologues together and became a regular at the Palladium and on Educating Archie.

"But I'd always wanted to work in the straight theatre, and I began doing little Watgate revues in the 1950s. There Michael Codron saw me, and a few years later he rang and asked if I'd go to see a play called Interlocking Mr. Sloane. I think he was mad, but I thought I was rather too straightlaced; anyway the next morning he rang, and when I told him I'd liked it he said he'd like me. It was The Killing of Sister George."

"Not that that was an overnight success; on the pre-London tour they hated us so much we couldn't even get served in the shops. At Hull we never had a play about lesbians before, and they weren't about to have one then either. Next to the stage door, there was a shop which had a big sign in the window advertising second-hand false teeth and to take my mind off the play I used to stare at that a lot, wondering what sort of people sold their old teeth, and who to. Anyway I told Eileen Atkins we'd be off after one night in London, but then came the premier, and I suddenly heard the sounds of laughter from the audience. I couldn't believe it. I turned round to look at Eileen in case she'd been pulling funny faces but she hadn't. They were actually enjoying it. We did a year and five months in London, then Broadway, and then the film, though they should have had Eileen for that too. It's a funny business."

"A few years later I was doing Madame Arcati for Noel Coward in Blithe Spirit and he came backstage after the first night and we stayed talking so long to the dressing-room that we were the last people out of the theatre, except the fireman who said goodnight to us so I said 'Goodnight, Fireman' and Noel said 'What I like best about you, Beryl, is that you're so wonderful with names'."

Sheridan Morley

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Paul Brooke/Kammerling
Gayle Brown/Helen Hobart
Carmen Du Sautoy/Miss Leighton
(Best Actress in a Supporting Role Plays & Players 1979)
Paul Greenwood/Jerry
Richard Griffiths/George
(Best Actor in a Supporting Role Plays & Players 1979)
David Suchet/Glogogor
Zoë Wanamaker/May
(Actress of the Year in a Revival SWET 1979)
Director/Trevor Nunn
Set Design/John Napier
Costumes/John Napier/Andrae Neofitov
Staging/Gillian Lynne
Lighting/Brian Bryant
Musical arrangement/Jim Parker

"The RSC has done it again... a knockout" The Guardian
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As both sides in the steel strike hold crucial meetings today:
an assessment by Paul Routledge and Peter Hill

Tempted back from the brink?

Two crucial meetings take place this morning of fundamental importance to the Government's economic policy and the country's industrial foundations. In Downing Street Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues will reflect on the effects of their own intervention in the state steel strike.

The Cabinet's discussion must surely be dominated by a desire to find an early solution with minimum loss of face all round. Ministers remain publicly committed to standing aloof from the wage dispute, but seasoned Thatcher watchers detect a greater readiness to sacrifice doctrinaire philosophy to the needs of the hour—of it can be done without a massive collapse of confidence in governmental credibility.

In the less august environs of King's Cross the 21 member executive of the dominant Iron and Steel Trades Confederation meets to confirm its decision to call out up to 20,000 more men employed in the private steelmaking sector. Representatives of steel unions from all over the world are attending the meeting to advise on the closing of the few remaining loopholes allowing imported steel into the United Kingdom.

Only a few hours remain before the strike reaches its critical weekend watershed. Unless a fresh peace initiative is mounted quickly, the private sector will be brought to an unwilling, but probably effective halt, the people of south Wales will suffer a one day "general strike" with the threat of worse to come and the TUC may be obliged, however reluctantly, to carry out its threat to picket the steelworks.

With all domestic production at a standstill, ports blocked, sympathy action by affiliated unions of the International Metal Workers' Federation and ugly scenes at factory gates, large tracts of British industry will come slowly, but inevitably to a standstill.

Exports, already compromised by the strength of sterling, will not only be delayed but may be lost irretrievably, layoffs will mount among those workers employed by the major steel using industries and companies will close.

Worse still, when the dispute is over, gaping wounds will remain, the bitterness will linger on between management and workers in the steel industry and elsewhere. Foreign



Mr William Sims (in anorak) and Mr Hector Smith (left) the blast furnacemen's leader

markets for British steel and British goods will be lost and the major steel using industries—construction, engineering, motor manufacture, canning and shipbuilding and many more—will seek to replace BSC with foreign steel suppliers.

Is this really what the Government wants? Is it what Mr William Sims and his ITC colleagues want? The one thing that all the parties are agreed on is that the consequences of the strike will be very serious indeed.

Presumably they all share a common interest in settling the dispute which is now in its fourth week. Assembling the elements of a compromise deal will be difficult. Both unions and management have expended vast sums of money on digging ever deeper foxholes than on seeking out common ground. That task was left to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service whose officials yesterday began the unenviable task of marrying the conflicting demands of both sides.

Some obvious bridges over the negotiating gulf suggest themselves. The dispute is now widening to involve the whole financial basis of BSC's operations. The TUC is challenging ministerial approval of the plant closure judgment, as well as lining up with the striking steelmen. If it is to stick, any solution must therefore look beyond the immediate pay grievance and the artificial deadline which

has been set for the industry to achieve commercial viability. An extended period of running down capacity going beyond the present unrealistic August date to encompass most, if not all, of the new financial year beginning in April (for which the Government has allocated a £450m cash limit) would almost certainly bring a positive response from the TUC. Consultations could begin on the phasing out of excess steelmaking capacity.

The collapse of market demand prompted the draconian measures to bring BSC capacity more into line with foreseeable demand and for a level of production which could be sold at a profit. But that programme has to be seen in the context of the overall European steel industry restructuring programme orchestrated by Industry Commissioner Davignon.

Ministers might therefore take up the TUC's proposal that the European Coal and Steel Community should foot more of the bill than it has in the past. Money released by such a measure would be employed in financing the kind of settlement which is not perfectly fitted to the monetarist theory might still find acceptance.

It is impossible to read the minds of the steel unions' negotiators and therefore to gauge their final terms for a settlement. But they may be tempted back to the bargaining table by an offer composed of a

The analysis I made last week of the protected position of Labour's Militant infiltrators has since received striking confirmation from the utterances of left-wing MPs who have sought to play down the significance of the Trotskyist elements.

The leftist establishment has predicted a "witch-hunt" of an element that is tactically useful in the highly successful advance of the united left. Yet it is never wise to assume that when politics do not like success this must be due to plots and tactics alone. Political groups with nothing to say that connects with prevailing political conditions get nowhere, however brilliant their tactics.

The united left would not have achieved its present success but for the failure of social democracy, as the Labour Party has recently understood, to run a mixed economy without inflation, or to maintain a successful relationship in office with the trade unions.

It is the failure of what might be called Gainskellism with Wilsonian face that enables the Labour Party to assert that the trouble is not too much socialism, but too little. What is more, there is a kind of historical truth lying behind this assertion that only a fool would ignore.

If Mrs Thatcher fails to change the direction of the nation, the alternative to the Tories cannot be a re-hash of old social democratic nostrums of planning and government subsidies, with pay and price controls, but a Labour government with a much clearer intention of rebuilding the country on fundamentally socialist lines than any of its predecessors since the war.

Indeed, if the Conservatives cannot make a basically free enterprise economy work politically, the logical alternative is the socialist siege economy, which we must learn to live with if the price in terms of human liberty that would have to be paid to make it operative.

The moderates would, in fact, stand a better chance of regaining control of Labour if Mrs Thatcher succeeded, and then obtained a further term of office. This would oblige Labour to find its own credible alternative within a free economy that was working. But in the meantime, they have to decide what to do now.

Some of them have clearly been more disposed to think in terms of a new break-away party under Mr Roy Jenkins's leadership since he indicated that he might be interested in a new centre party after he has finished at Brussels. I doubt, however, that he is inclined to have been heartened by the evidence from last week's opinion poll in *The Times* which suggested that a national

Ronald Butt

The birth of an idea in Labour politics

majority (54 per cent) would like to see a centre party.

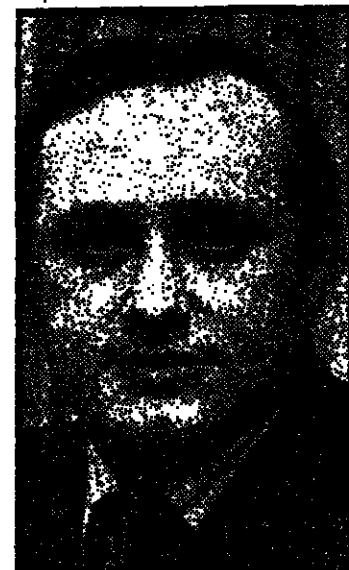
Yet the reality is that human beings are always prone to fantasize about the lion lying down with the lamb. The paradoxical idea of peace-filled moderation is always appealing—provided it doesn't stop us from trying to get our own way.

A break-away centre party would have the further advantage that it would have no basis of interest or finance, once the ancient connexion with the unions had been severed, and it is for this reason that there are some social democrats who toy with the idea of a split right through the party so that the parliamentary moderates could take with them the moderate unions, and claim to keep the brand name "Labour".

Indeed, I doubt whether it will be by splits and break-ups of any sort that the shape of British politics will eventually be changed. Lasting new political parties have never come about in that way. From the Peelites and the Liberal Unionists to the National Liberals and National Labour, split-off parties have never survived. The only new party that has replaced an old one was Labour, which took the Liberals' place because it had something to say, and an interest to promote, that the Liberals could not represent.

The failure of the Liberals now also arises, not from the lack of proportional representation but from their want of something to say that responds to a sufficiently large number of people. And of course, the Labour right-wing, obsessed with bureaucratic solutions to social and economic problems, and so often openly contemptuous in its social engineering of what most people want, suffers precisely the same disadvantage.

But is it possible for the Labour moderates to shed their



Dr Stephen Haseler: a scourge of the old hard left.

elitist instinct and their urge for government by political connoisseurs?

It is this failure of the Labour right to do more than regurgitate their old and failed ideas that gives a certain interest to some signs of new activity in that small and rebellious body of originally right-wing Labour grass roots supporters (though some of them have now been expelled) known as the Social Democratic Alliance.

The SDA, under the indefatigable leadership of Mr Douglas Eden and Dr Stephen Haseler, once GLC councillors, and now under expulsion from the Labour Party, have for several years never ceased in their campaign to show what the "Popular Front" left is up to. They have deluged the press with information about who has consorted with whom, and about the connexions of the Labour left with the communist world. They have been the scourge

of the old hard left as well as the Millingtons, and their hope (it has seemed) has been to promote the recapture of the initiative in the party by the men of the Labour right.

Now, it seems, the SDA is about to go. It is about to be weakened by the expulsions, their membership has increased, and they now argue that left-of-centre moderation can only succeed by a new and much more populist appeal to the mass of lower middle class and working class voters who have supported the Labour Party.

The word "populist" (a term of abuse on the Whiggish Labour right) holds no horrors for them. They talk of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary power of public and private authorities; they advocate the protection of individual workers' rights against the attempts of unions to enforce monolithic powers; they advocate a fair rather than an egalitarian society; they prefer workers' cooperatives and employee shareholding to state-ownership; they speak of working people's wish for the rule of law against crime and vandalism; they want to break down the artificial barriers between class and class; they are not even afraid to talk about patriotism.

The members of this tiny organization, which had its birth in the Labour Party but is now effectively outside it, are thinking in terms of becoming the nucleus of a new political force outside the existing party structure. They do not, it seems, retain much hope of a revival of social democracy within the present Labour organization, but some of them seem to think that Mr Roy Jenkins might join them in due course—though since it would be hard to find a less populist and more elitist, social democrat than Mr Jenkins, that strikes me as an unlikely proposition.

Yet, if the left finally captures Labour as it now is; if Mrs Thatcher wins again, or if there is some sort of cataclysm in British politics, it is from just such ideas, if not from this particular organization, that a new social democratic party might emerge. Is a populist, elitist, non-bureaucratic, social justice left-of-centre party (that is virtually non-socialist in the old sense) possible in British politics? Or is it a contradiction in terms?

I do not know the answer, but the question is one for such modernisers as Mr William Rodgers and Mr Roy Mason to ponder. Whatever happens to the SDA's new initiative, it is just possible that in some such approach lies the solution that Labour moderates will eventually have to grasp.

Bernard Levin

The indefensible face of apartheid

It is a remarkable man who pleads from within his own persecution for the victim of another

Ex Africa semper aliquid novi, except that from certain parts of that continent the news is always the same, even though the names may change. Consider first today the case of the Reverend David Russell, an Anglican priest from Wynberg, a suburb of Cape Town, who is due to appear in court there tomorrow on several charges, which include breaking his banning order by travelling out of the district to which it confines him, and failing on the occasion of his leaving it to report to the police, a duty which the order lays upon him. Mr Russell is already awaiting judgment and sentence on four other charges, which include other alleged breaches of his banning order and the possession of a banned book, *Biko*, by Donald Woods (the book gives an account of the murder by South African police of the young black leader, and of the cover-up launched by the then Minister of Justice, James Kruger); he is also awaiting the outcome of his appeal against conviction on yet other charges. The reason for this persecution by the South African authorities is that Mr Russell's pastoral work is among the people of the Crossroads township, which they are determined to destroy.

The circumstances of the conviction and charges against Mr Russell, the reason for his banning, and the purpose of his departure from Wynberg, are all of some significance. Along with four other Angli-

can clergymen, he was convicted in 1977 on a charge of publishing an "undesirable publication", which was a pamphlet entitled *The Role of the Riot Police in the Burnings and Killings, Nyanga, Cape Town 1976* (Nyanga is an African township), and which revealed details of the atrocities committed by the police in the riots there. All the defendants were convicted, and Mr Russell was given a suspended prison sentence of 180 days, as well as being fined 350 Rand.

Mr Russell and his four fellow-priests appealed against their convictions; it is the suspended judgment on these appeals that they now await. (In the course of the appeal counsel for the state said rather charmingly that "the police could not defend themselves", a view not likely to be shared by those the police killed in Nyanga.) On the outcome of the appeal will depend the nature and severity of the sentences awaiting the Reverend David Russell on the charges on which he has already been convicted (including possession of *Biko*).

That, however, does not exhaust the catalogue of legal actions against him; the latest are those, mentioned above, relating to the breaking of his banning order. At the beginning of December, the Synod of the Anglican Church in South Africa was held in Grahamstown, Natal, presided over by the Archbishop of Cape Town, William Burnett. To the astonishment and delight of the gathering of bishops and other clergy, Mr Russell appeared without warning before the opening session, and was most warmly received then and at the sessions of the synod which he attended. One of the priests at the synod has explained that the form of summons to attend it, issued by the archbishop, was binding upon him. "He could not fail to come," said this clergyman. "The archbishop is his father in God and a summons from him is more binding than restrictions imposed by the state." (It would, of course, be even more interesting to know what Mr Russell himself said by way of explanation of his action, and indeed in his speeches at the synod, but as he is a banned person, all South African publications are forbidden, under fearsome penalties, to quote anything he says, so that none of his words are at present available to me.)

At first it was believed that the South African authorities might take no action against Mr Russell in respect of his conduct; he returned quietly

home to his house-arrest in Wynberg as soon as the synod was over, and it seemed possible that the authorities might weigh the satisfaction of persecuting him still further against the possible publicity abroad (Mrs Helen Suzman said that such a case would make headlines throughout the world) and decide to ignore his action. But it was not to be; Mr Russell (described by the South African Bishop Desmond Tutu as "the freest human being I have ever met") had already spent some years defying South Africa's rulers by praising Christianity with consenting adults (and even children) in public, and if he had been allowed to get away with conduct of this sort he would probably have gone further and started ranting to God the things that

are God's. So two summonses were served upon him. Perhaps it would be helpful if I were to summarize the criminal calendar of Mr Russell at this point. Tomorrow he faces a first hearing on two summonses relating to the alleged breaking of a banning order; the month or so early in February he will know the outcome of his appeal against conviction on charges of telling the truth about police crimes in Nyanga; on February 1 he will hear the outcome of his trial on charges of breaking his banning order on another occasion; and if he is found guilty he will be sentenced. His secretary, incidentally, Mrs Clemens, convicted of possessing another book on *Biko*, awaits sentencing on February 18.)

I hope to provide information about the outcome of Mr Russell's various legal tribulations; I must also mention that the synod he attended in defiance of the state should also have been attended by the two Bishops of Mozambique, but these were prevented by their state from travelling to South Africa—truly, though there is tyranny in apartheid, there is no apartheid in tyranny.

Which brings me to the second South African resister of the week. At the synod, Archbishop Burnett said "I believe the denial of justice and freedom to disfranchised people of South Africa is so gross as to make the South African way of life indefensible—a cause you cannot defend." This is a view shared by a young lay Baptist in South Africa, Mr Peter Moll, who is an actuarial student, and is also studying theology part-time. He did his compulsory basic military training in the ordinary way, and was then, as a reservist, called up for border service in December, 1977. He refused to say that he could not help to defend the unjust society that South Africa is. He was given a suspended sentence of three months' imprisonment. Early in 1979 he was called up again, and again

refused on the same grounds of conscience; this time, at a court martial in September last year, he was fined. Almost immediately afterwards he was called up again, and again refused to go; at the court martial he had said that if the laws of God and the laws of man conflicted, the laws of God, for him, took priority, and this clearly remains his view.

For his third refusal, he was tried by a military court on December 4 last, and this time the cat stopped playing; Peter Moll was sentenced to the maximum sentence, 18 months' imprisonment. He had repeated his willingness, expressed at his earlier trials, to do civilian service as a substitute for military, but there is no provision for conscientious objectors in South Africa to be directed to such an alternative, and his request was turned down. Before his trial, he had written a letter to the commanding officer of the unit to which he was required to report. In it, he declared that the injustice of South Africa was such that it "makes one question very seriously just what one is required to fight for, and what war is required to die for." And having considered that question seriously, he had concluded that

... blacks have for decades tried to change matters by

constitutional and peaceful means, by savings, detentions without trial and shootings had removed all hope of peaceful change... This is a situation of fundamental injustice. Until it is the government's express intention to remove it, I will be unable in conscience to defend it.

P.S.—As I write, there comes news that the Reverend David Russell has sent a telegram to Mr Brezhnev, on behalf of a priest, Father Dudko, who has been arrested there for his Christian beliefs; truly it is a remarkable man who pleads from within his own persecution for the victim of another. I conclude, therefore, with the text of his message:

I appeal to you to release Father Dmitri Dudko from imprisonment. He may be able to minister to the congregation in freedom. I ask as one banned by the Government of South Africa and under nightly house arrest which severely limits my freedom. I face charges and likely prison sentences. One of the touchstones in the judgment of history on any regime will be the treatment of dissenters. The world sees tragic parallels to what is being done to Father Dudko and those detained and resisters in South Africa. The arbiters of power can never serve the struggle for a humane society which is free and just. May you apply wisdom and compassion in releasing Father Dudko.

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SCOTTISH ARTS DIARY

Living on memories of Shakespeare

At a time when arts organizations are tightening their belts, Scotland still seems full of new projects—new galleries, new theatres, new companies. Yet the one readily visible place, Aberdeen, remains strangely backward in some areas of the arts, notably in providing any professional drama of its own.

Aberdeen is awash with oil money: local government is housed in big new complexes, new housing estates and commercial buildings rise apace, spending on light entertainment is high, but the city does not even have its own theatre company, an amenity which is enjoyed by far smaller, and poorer, cities.

There is support for the arts: Aberdeen has a fine art gallery and is about to spend £2m on the His Majesty's Theatre, which caters for visiting productions and amateur groups. But campaigns for a repertory company have always come to naught.

The latest attempt to energize the city came in 1978 from the Scottish Arts Council, who commissioned a report which urged the establishment of a small

company based in Aberdeen but also touring the Grampian region. Last week the city council finally decided its action on the report: further investigation of various options.

Somehow the will to do anything seems lacking. Apart from the general restraints on local government spending, relations between the region and the district are bad, making cooperation difficult. Some officials doubt whether there is really sufficient support for a theatre company.

As one theatrical campaigner said: "It is like baring your head against a brick wall." If Aberdeenians are deprived now, they will soon lack even touring productions: the city will be without a proper theatre for 14 months while His Majesty's Theatre is being renovated.

"We are the land of the philistines," said one official. "But it is not strictly true. Shakespeare visited here, you know."

But that was four centuries ago—and, of course, it was with a touring production.

The red shoes dance again

While the Dance Umbrella festival is going on down south, the Scottish Ballet will be hold-



What about a car sticker, Na'man, saying 'Don't blame us, we voted Labour'?

ing its own week of festivities in Glasgow. It will be opened on February 25 by Mhairi Ewan, introducing the film for which she is particularly remembered, *The Red Shoes*. Then on March 1, the veteran ballerina will be taking the stage again, dancing at a public

ball performance for the first time since 1952. She will be performing a short solo ballet, specially created by the company's artistic director, Peter Darrell. During the gala evening there will also be a performance of *Five Ruckert Songs*, with Dame Janet Baker as the singer.

Other programmes will offer up to a score of new short works, being created by members of the company. These will include plenty of high-heeled entertainment, designed to show people that ballet "is not all tutus and tarts and dancing shoes".

Later this year the company will make its debut at the Edinburgh Festival, with programmes including *The Tales of Hoffman*.

Trying to fill Edinburgh's hole

There is in Edinburgh a famous hole in the ground which seems doomed to be a graveyard for civic ambitions. The site in Castle Terrace appears capable of swallowing all manner of grandiose schemes.

Once upon a time it was destined as the site for an opera house—you may remember the fate of that. Two years ago Edinburgh council approved a plan for a Hilton hotel there,

but the developers dropped the scheme.

Nevertheless the council remains undaunted and last week decided to make new attempts to find someone to build a luxury hotel.

Meanwhile, on one corner of the site, the Little Lyceum theatre continues to thrive. Lesley Lawson, the Lyceum's new director, said he was originally told the theatre would have to close immediately after the last festival, then that it would be pulled down after Christmas, then three days before Christmas that it would not be pulled down immediately, but would definitely come down by the summer.

He plays little faith in the latest development. It is already thinking about productions for 1981.

Fortunately, dreams of an opera house still remain: Loch-lan Regional Council is spending £400,000 on restoring a life the Edinburgh Playhouse, a very large disused cinema; now

The newly formed National Youth Orchestra of Scotland spreads its wings this summer with a tour of Shetland, Orkney and the Hebrides. The tour includes a concert at Sullom Voe, which the orchestra believes will be the farthest north a symphony concert has ever been given in Britain.

a big orchestra pit is also being installed.

However, the building will not be suitable for large-scale opera and ballet unless millions of pounds are spent on stage extensions, and it is questionable whether there would be sufficient visiting productions to justify such expense.

The Playhouse is due to open in June, with smaller scale opera and ballet, variety and pop shows among its plans; the regional council is cautiously waiting to gauge public support for the theatre before committing itself to further spending.

Touring the high road

Plenty of money is being spent on building new theatres and renovating old ones, but a problem remains: finding enough decent things to put in them.

Few worthwhile commercial productions are available and it is increasingly difficult to attract the big English companies; so the Scottish Arts Council believes the only answer is to create its own touring company. It is now about to launch a completely new Scottish theatre company, which would tour the main theatres from a base in Glasgow.

The scheme is being drawn up by Ewan Hooper, a Scot who is particularly known for his work in London, as founder of the Greenwich Theatre. After completing a feasibility study, he is now preparing detailed plans and estimates for a pilot season, to begin in a year's time.

He envisages an initial season of 13 weeks, with the main emphasis on presenting the work of Scottish playwrights. They would also commission new plays from Scottish writers and new versions of European plays.

His researches have left him in no doubt that there is a demand for all kinds of touring productions, and "particularly a need for a company that takes Scottish drama really seriously."

Blessing the arts

The arts in Scotland have received a blessing from the churches, in the shape of disused church buildings which have been turned into a variety of attractive arts centres, like Glasgow's Henry Wood Hall and Edinburgh's Queen's Hall.

The latest to be put to secular use is the historic Tron Kirk in Glasgow, which will become a home for the Glasgow Theatre Club at a cost of £400,000. It hopes to open as

a 240-seat theatre in about a year.

The club is seen as Glasgow's answer to the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, which has done so much to develop new Scottish playwrighting. Ironically, the Glasgow scheme is starting at a time when the Traverse is in serious difficulties; it has had to close down for nine weeks, and with only a tiny auditorium it cannot make enough money to improve its finances. The answer would be a larger building: is there a spare church somewhere, preferably with a sponsor to pay for the conversion?

It is worth noting that the arts do reciprocate with the churches: a series of concerts is being mounted at Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh in the hope of increasing the congregation.

If you are on holiday in the Highlands this summer, do not be surprised to come across a strange green and red vehicle which was once a Glasgow Corporation double-decker bus. It is a travelling art gallery from the Scottish Arts Council which is currently touring the Highlands. Edinburgh suburbs but will be heading north after the snows have cleared.

Martin Huckerby

هكزامن الأصيل



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REGRESS IN MOSCOW

Only a significant shift in the balance of Moscow politics can explain the simultaneous banishment of Dr Sakharov and "resignation" of Mr Vladimir Kirillin, Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Both men are, in their different ways, important figures. No moves against them could have been taken without discussion at the highest level. Almost certainly their fates are interconnected.

On its own the banishment of Dr Sakharov to the closed city of Gorky would be relatively easy to explain. He has been a thorn in the side of the regime since at least 1961, when he wrote Mr Khrushchev protesting against atomic bomb tests. In recent years he has been a fear- less champion of human rights and the main channel to the west for information on the persecution of dissidents. In 1977 he wrote to President Carter and received a much publicized reply. Some sections of the Soviet establishment must have been itching to get at him for a long time. The general feeling they have now received could be seen merely as a form of limited retaliation against Mr Carter for his response to the invasion of Afghanistan. It conveys the message that the Soviet Union no longer feels constrained by western opinion. At the same time the move is instantly reversible since Dr Sakharov has not been tried or sentenced or sent to the west.

However, there remains a strong suspicion that the matter is not so simple. Dr Sakharov is not just any conveniently available dissident. First, there is the curious choice of timing. The Soviet leadership has been showing every sign of being very interested in preserving good relations with France. The banishment of Dr Sakharov could easily have been postponed until after the visit of M Chaban Delmas, yet it was not, and it was too much for the distinguished French visitor. Normally the Soviet leadership is quite good at anticipating problems of this sort, so it is reasonable to assume that there was either a dispute or some kind of abnormal failure of communication and coordination within the Kremlin.

PUBLIC BORROWING MUST FALL

Mrs Thatcher has known from the start that getting the domestic economy right is the central test for her Government. If inflation is firmly set on a downward trend towards an annual rate of increase once again in single figures she can confidently expect to win the next general election. If, however, the "Thatcher experiment" does not produce such results, even extensive successes in other areas will not save her politically. It is against this background that she and her Treasury ministers are now preparing for the March budget and the associated White Paper on public expenditure for the years 1980-81 and beyond.

Many of the decisions in this area have in practice already been taken by the Government and are beginning to surface piece-meal in press reports. This appears to be a deliberate decision, aimed at preparing the ground for the very substantial changes in policy that will in total be required if the Government is to reduce present spending plans by up to £2,000m in a full year. In addition, Mr Lawson, as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has been making speeches designed to communicate the same message.

With the benefit of hindsight Mrs Thatcher and her Chancellor of the Exchequer may be regretting that they did less at the start of this Government's term to get upwind of the inherited economic and financial dangers. Despite all the promised rigour of the Government's economic policies on coming to office, public spending in the short term

will still be higher than in 1978-9. Further, the critical public sector borrowing requirement will almost certainly turn out this year to have been substantially above forecasts, with a further increase next year unless policies are drastically changed. As a consequence the growth path of the money supply has been significantly above even the target range inherited from the previous administration, let alone the lower target range adopted by the Chancellor at the time of his first budget.

The result has been to waste the impact of the increase in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate to 14 per cent at the time of last June's budget. Indeed, as we know, the Government has had subsequently to accept much higher levels of interest, despite political unpopularity and the economic damage that these may do in the medium term, in order to preserve its basic policies to combat inflation. It is always easier for a Government to do difficult things in the immediate aftermath of an election victory. The task now in the second budget of getting the underlying fiscal and monetary policy firmly back onto the rails will be rather more painful.

The overwhelming priority, however, remains to get the public sector's borrowing requirement under control and on a downward trend as a proportion of the nation's output. Mr Lawson has been right to stress that this is the central aspect of the "Thatcher experiment". For, if the Government's borrowing

needs are allowed further to rise, it is certain that the general level of interest rates will not fall. It is in such circumstances likely that in such circumstances likely that the consequent further depression of business confidence and the outlook for employment would be very serious indeed.

To achieve an improvement there will have to be a combination of reduced expenditure and increased revenue. It is always tempting for a government in this position to hope that major expenditure savings can be achieved by greater efficiency and less waste. Certainly something can be done in these directions, but hard experience leads to the conclusion that real cuts in practice, as opposed to forecast cuts in White Papers, can be achieved only by cutting out major functions at present being undertaken by government, central and local, or by major changes in policy.

On the revenue side the Government will be tempted by the political attractions of further cuts in direct taxation. It will, however, have little room for such cuts this year and it should probably accept the fact. There is no reason why the Chancellor should not continue his plans for reform of the system of capital taxation, where the net revenue loss can be kept within bounds. His main source of increased revenue, however, will have to be excise duties and the profits of the gas and electricity industries. He should take his decisions here despite the short term effect on the cost of living.

seats who were members of its own advisory committee. In his statement to the House of Commons on December 17, the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr John Nott, made no reference whatsoever to the conclusion of his local authority advisers on the Stansted Airport development. The Stansted Airport development, the new airport as now envisaged would mean a population increase of 208,500 people. Growth of this size inevitably means new towns and associated development in what is at present a delightful and productive area of farmland in wholly rural countryside.

On both previous occasions the Government's proposals for the development of Stansted as the new airport have been rejected out of hand when they have been put under the light of a public inquiry. Have no doubt, Sir Colin, that the Essex County Council will fight the present proposals with the same tenacity as it has shown on previous occasions and with the same successful outcome.

For what has changed since the previous Conservative Government, in 1971, to their credit rejected any inland site for the third London airport because of "the irreversible damage that would be done to large tracts of countryside and many settled communities by the creation of an airport".

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY G. BARNETT,
Chairman,
Essex County Council,
County Hall,
Chelmsford.

Soviet Union, and particularly on its contacts with the west. The idea that scientific advance requires a certain level of intellectual freedom is difficult for some sections of the party to swallow, and the opening to the west has provoked more complex disputes. The vast majority of scientists have grasped eagerly at the new opportunities and have grumbled only at continuing restrictions on travel and access to western publications, but there have been some who have felt that their own endeavours were in danger of being pushed aside by western imports. These could have found support among more nationalist elements in the party who do not want the Soviet Union to become dependent on western technology. The same camp would include those who distrust all forms of ideological contamination from the west. It was noticeable even in the early seventies that Mr Brezhnev's enthusiastic statements on scientific and economic cooperation with the west were endorsed in much cooler tones by Mr Suslov.

Now that this cooperation has been jeopardized by the invasion of Afghanistan it would not be surprising if those who never liked it anyway were feeling that the tide was running in their favour. Indeed, it must have been running somewhat in their favour when the decision to invade Afghanistan was taken. The tone of the press, which is slipping back towards the Cold War, seems to confirm this trend. Logically, of course, if there is going to be less technology from the west the Soviet authorities should be making new efforts to encourage their own scientists and to reform the system so as to get their achievements into production sooner, but Soviet politicians do not work that way. If the present trend is confirmed, Soviet scientists will come under tighter party controls which will further inhibit their work. Western protests against the shocking treatment of Dr Sakharov, whose dissent has been entirely peaceful and responsible, should therefore help other Soviet scientists as well. Western scientists should make their voices heard.

The United States has so far succeeded only in violating agreements, war-mongering and torpedoing the foundations of international dialogue and cooperation laid in the past few years.

Yours sincerely,
SPARTAK BEGLOV,
c/o Novosti Press Agency,
Pushkin Square,
Moscow,
Soviet Union.

Links with Chile

From Dame Peggy Ashcroft and others

Sir, We welcome your leader of January 18 which puts the decision of Her Majesty's Government on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile in its true perspective. Your leader refers to the unsatisfactory response of Pinochet's Government to the demands for the release of the Chilean exiles, which they still refuse to admit.

She is, fortunately, out of that country. But the British national William Beaurine, abducted by the DINA (the Chile secret police) in Buenos Aires on a flight to Paris in 1974, is still missing. It is known that he was held and tortured by the DINA in Santiago.

His mother's appeals through the then British Government failed to elicit any news of his continuing existence since 1974. There are five other cases of connections of British families in the same situation.

Has the present British Government any answer to those facts? Or has it reason not to believe the latest UN report that human rights conditions in Chile have deteriorated during the last year?

Yours faithfully,
PEGGY ASHCROFT,
MARGARET DRABBLE,
GARDINER,
GREVILLE JANNER,
HAROLD PINTER,
Chile Committee for Human Rights,
1 Cambridge Terrace, NW1.

Increasing state pensions

From Mr Jack Jones, CR

Sir, Inflation is rising at a very rapid rate indeed, and with the projected increases of 29 per cent on gas, and 22 per cent on electricity, it is clear that the elderly are really going to suffer.

The increases applied to national pensions last November have been substantially eroded, and it would mean severe hardship for pensioners if they have to wait until next November for a further increase in their pension.

In periods of rapid inflation, it is surely not unreasonable to argue that pension adjustments should be made at six-monthly intervals. It might be argued that such a system is administratively inconvenient. However, in Canada a quarterly cost of living adjustment is made to the basic pension without causing chaos. Where there is a will there is a way.

I hope that the Government and Members of Parliament of all parties will examine sympathetically this most urgent issue.

Yours sincerely,
JACK JONES,
President,
T&GWU Retired Members
Associations,
16 Swains Lane, N6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civil Defence: a lethal failure of duty?

From Mr Tony Kerpel

Sir, In view of the interest in civil defence shown recently by *The Times* and its readers, it would be appropriate to look not simply at the new shelter provision, but at the way existing shelter policy is being pursued.

There is, in the vicinity of my war, a large deep-tunnel shelter which was extensively used during the last war. For the past four years this shelter has been used as a document storage company, on lease from the Property Services Agency.

The company has demolished the protected concrete entrance to the shelter, and replaced it with a brick foyer incorporating glass windows and a wooden door. This effectively cancels out from use as a shelter the rest of this large structure.

There are pertinent questions to be asked which follow from such a development. Has the Home Office reviewed and abandoned as being of no practical use to civilians existing shelters? Has the Home Office, considered modifications to existing shelters which would meet current requirements?

Does the Home Office issue guidelines to local planning authorities advising them how to preserve shelters in a useable state, or can local authorities merely put shelters out of commission?

According to a *Times* report by Stewart on May 6, 1974, the Home Office estimated that, if nothing were done to minimize the aftermath effects of a nuclear attack, then casualties would be 80 per cent nationwide. A national shelter policy would take this down to 20 per cent.

Since that report, an Act of Parliament has transferred responsibility for deep shelters from the Home Office to the Property Services Agency. To my knowledge these two bodies have no joint responsibility for civil defence, and the Property Services Agency is looking to commercial use of such shelters. The fact seems to be that, far from maintaining a minimum civil defence provision, we are actually disengaging from such activity.

The only provision for hard-shelter covers those civil servants and politicians who would be expected to administer a devastated homeland. The fact that nothing is being done to cater for the welfare of the civilian population on the basis that "we can't do enough so we will do nothing" smacks of criminal neglect.

As ever it is to be the pin-striped moles who survive in their burrows. In peacetime they are inflation-proof, in wartime fall-proof, while the rest of us can irradiate indignation.

Yours faithfully,
TONY KERPEL,
Members' Room,
The Town Hall,
London Borough of Camden,
Euston Road, NW1.

From Colonel The Lord Clifford of Chudeleigh
Sir, Not before time: but congratulations to Peter Evans for his

Private access to public records

From Mr Hugh Peskett

Sir, As this office conducts one of the larger professional research organizations, with a worldwide scope, I hope that I can offer a broad perspective to the present correspondence.

It may not be entirely clear to your readers, but in essence the Public Record Office has two functions, (a) to receive government archives into its custody, and (b) to make them available appropriately to both government offices and the public (lawyers, professional and amateur etc.).

As arranged at present, in essence the archives are in two principal buildings, (a) a new building at Kew where modern departmental records are held (and continue to accumulate) and (b) the older building in Chancery Lane where are held medieval, state paper, and legal records. It is a fairly clear-cut division, and very workable for all concerned.

It enables the less fragile modern records to be handled by a computerized system with conveyor belts and the like at Kew, which can hardly be challenged as the finest repository for modern archives in the world. It is for example far superior to the National Archives in Washington, where the scope (nothing earlier than 1776), is comparable.

The proposal which has caused so much outcry is that the records held at Chancery Lane should be kept there still, but made available to researchers only by being taken out to Kew by van at a day or two's notice. The objections are twofold: (a) inconvenience to researchers and (b) hazard to the documents.

The first thing which must be said about inconvenience to researchers is that only two correspondents have written in favour of the proposals (January 17 and 18) and both are quite irrelevant as their declared interests lie in modern records already at Kew. Your other correspondents represent a substantial cross-section of those who are concerned academically, and they are opposed, without exception.

One should also speak for the less imposing but far more numerous general public whose amateur interest in local and family history

Into extra time

From Mr Geoffrey Nice

Sir, Until recently I could telephone my wife from any part of the country and inform her that I was well, all for the price of 2p. The increased time purchased by the newly increased minimum public telephone call charge of 5p means that now I have not only to inform her of my condition but to inquire as to hers.

The social consequences of this inflationary increase are to be deplored.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY NICE,
Manor Farm,
Aldham,
Near Canterbury,
Kent,
January 19.

The integrity of Guy Liddell

From Mr Malcolm Frost

Sir, It is probably not generally known that the allocation of money by government to the pre-war Intelligence departments was by present standards grossly inadequate. These departments were served by a small band of devoted and patriotic men and women for little financial reward.

It was largely due to the efforts of the Earl of Swinton, who probably saved the Battle of Britain by his single minded support for the development of radar, when a pre-war Secretary of State for Air, that the Security Service was rapidly expanded in 1940 to cope with the fifth column scare following the successful invasions of Holland, Belgium, Norway and France. It was only right that at this time the efforts of the Security Service should be concentrated on the activities of Germany and possible fascist collaboration in this country.

We need to remember the large number of suspects—many of them in important positions—who at the instigation of the Security Service were detained under Regulation 18B.

It was during this period of alarm that Lord Swinton requested my secondment to the Security Service from the BBC, where I had served as Director of Overseas Intelligence, and until I returned to the BBC in 1946 to direct the coverage of the Second Front I worked directly under Guy Liddell. Unfortunately, the eminent solicitor of international repute also recruited by Lord Swinton is now dead, but I have no doubt that he would endorse the strong stand of one of his own recruits, Mr Skardon, in Guy Liddell's defence.

Whatever reserves I might have developed about the limitations of the Security Service, I was never given the slightest cause to doubt the patriotism of its pre-war officers. I feel bound by the undertakings which all war time temporaries gave to respect the confidentiality of our work and I have nothing but contempt for those who have broken their undertaking and promoted assertions of their honourable man.

I do not wish to say anything about those whose disloyalty has been proved, except to say that penetration of the personnel and communications of the other side forms an essential ingredient of all espionage and counter espionage work. The risk of perjury is obviously greater at a time of rapid expansion. It was inevitable for this reason alone that the small pre-war staff reacted with a degree of suspicion against wartime expansion.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM FROST,
23 Friday Street,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr Kenneth Morton Evans
Sir, I was delighted to read the authoritative article on Guy Liddell in today's *Times* (January 21). For three years I had the privilege of working in close association with him in the Atomic Energy Authority and became devoted to him. He had knowledge, wisdom and warmth in abundance.

In about 1953 we were in Washington to discuss atomic security matters. At an informal meeting, Guy received a message, quietly left the room, and returned considerably later. Our hosts were astonished to learn that he had spent an hour with J. Edgar Hoover. Such a long private talk with the Head of the FBI was almost without precedent.

That occasion disposes, I think, of the allegations which have been made that he was distrusted by the Americans.

Mr Tendler's article (January 21) has done justice to an honourable, gifted and loyal man.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MORTON EVANS,
Pond End House,
Bloxham,
Liss, Hampshire.

Our Father

From the Reverend R. Leonard Hollands

Sir, I was astounded to read in *The Times* today (January 18) that a group referred to as Christian feminists has as the climax of its ambition the expropriation from liturgical texts of any indication as to the sex of the Godhead.

This attitude seems to betray an extraordinary lack of insight into theology, psychology, Christian teaching, and etymological nuance. Furthermore, it demeans the nobility and grace of womanhood simply by refusing to acknowledge her rather silly through their but thinly veiled inferiority complex.

Contemporary theology, in offering us definitions of the Divinity such as "ground of our being" certainly raises the question of gender, but yet Jesus, himself a man, taught us to think of God as a father. This is not pure chance.

We, regardless of our sex, need a father figure, as Freud has long since indicated, and we need a mother figure. The Church provides both. Let us keep both and be ashamed of neither.

Let us also refrain from yet another erosion of our language. We have, in the last decade, lost the freedom to use the word "gay" without great care. Are we now to lose "man" and "woman"? Have these ladies forgotten that species' appellations often double for gender (and not always male gender)? Compare man—woman and man, duck—drake and drake, etc. with pig—sow and sow. Please let us leave it like that.

One wonders at the possible ramifications of so called Christian feminists using languages whose entire syntactical procedures are inextricably bound up with gender! Yours faithfully,
RAY LEONARD HOLLANDS,
2 Woodland Drive,
Haverhill,
Middlesex.

From Mr Bernard Roberts
Sir, Father Church?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD ROBERTS,
17 Aylesbury Road,
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأعمال

LAING
make ideas take shape

Stock markets
FT Ind 450.8, up 1.0
FT Glts 68.93, up 0.18

Sterling
\$2.2790, up 35 points
Index 71.5, down 0.2

Dollar
Index 84.6 up 0.3

Gold
\$700 an ounce up \$10

3-month money
Inter-bank 17 1/2 to 17 3/4
Euro \$ 1 1/2 to 1 1/4

IN BRIEF

Iran starts proceedings against Bank of America

Iran's central bank is starting legal proceedings in Paris against the Bank of America to try to recover \$100m (£43.5m) deposited with the bank.

The Iranians said \$50m of the deposit was due for release on December 12 and the rest was due on January 7, but the Bank of America said it was not in a position to unlock the deposit.

On Monday a Paris court upheld restrictions placed by the Iranian Central Bank on accounts in France held by the American Citibank, in response to Citibank blocking of Iranian deposits with it in Paris.

Geest acquisition
Geest Computer Services, part of the Geest food and industrial group, has acquired Charringtons Computer Services of Bishop's Cleeve and has set up a new company, Geest Micro Systems, to market microcomputer products.

Wine tax warning
Britain's wine and spirit industry has given a warning that further increases in wine taxation could depress the market and lead to a drop of as much as 15 per cent in the amount of revenue collected.

Armitage holding
Armitage, Shanks' largest shareholder, the Dutch-based Ceramics Investment Holdings, yesterday increased its stake in the sanitary ware group from 21 per cent to 23.51 per cent. Armitage is the subject of a £30m bid from Blue Circle Industries.

British Rail openings
The Government is looking at ways of attracting private investment into subsidiary companies of British Rail. Mr Norman Fowler, the Transport Minister, told the new select committee of MPs on transport that his department was considering whether there might be suitable openings for private investment in British Rail's hotels, housing, property and Sealink ventures.

Turkey delays cuts
Turkey is delaying its long-awaited austerity package until it gets a guarantee from the West for continued economic aid.

Oil tanks Gulf-bound
Three giant oil purification tanks, part of a consignment of 14 from Britain to the Middle East, have been shipped out of Liverpool to the Gulf. The tanks were built at the Midlands works of Danks of Netherton.

Meat plant jobs cut
The Fasttrack Marketing Corporation, which is 74 per cent owned by an offshoot of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday it plans to halve the workforce at its second largest factory in its C and T Harris food division, bringing the number of jobs down to 450.

Wall Street up sharply
Led by strength in defence and oil issues the New York Stock Market rose sharply in heavy trading. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 11 points to 877.56. Turnover was 50,730,000 compared to yesterday's 50,620,000. The SDR was 1.31815 and the FSDR was 0.579407.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Armitage Shanks 39p to 55p
Beecham Grp 3p to 12 1/2p
Berrill Tin 5p to 5 1/2p
Compair 5 1/2p to 7 1/2p
Expand Metal 5p to 7 1/2p

Falls
BP 8p to 34 1/2p
Bambors Stores 10p to 9 1/2p
Denbyware 9p to 10 1/2p
Foster Bros 6p to 8 1/2p
Gleason MJ 3p to 3 1/2p

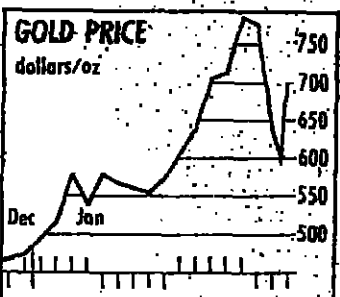
Gold price upheaval as political rumours lead to market confusion

By Caroline Atkinson
Gold fluctuated wildly on the London market yesterday, at one point dipping below \$600 an ounce to \$590. It then rocketed by an astounding \$100 and finally closed at \$700 an ounce in London, a rise of \$10 on the day.

Activity was so hectic that the London fixings were delayed. No one seemed sure where the price was going next. Markets have been gripped by gold fever since the new year but one dealer commented that yesterday was the most turbulent day he had seen.

The same was true across Europe. In Zurich the price plummeted early in the morning as a wave of selling hit the market. This was largely based on unconfirmed claims that the former Shah of Iran had been arrested in Panama.

Throughout the day markets were rocked by rumour and counter-rumour. Stories of the release of the American hostages in Tehran, a denial that the Shah had been arrested, and the supposed death of President Tito of Yugoslavia were all circulating, sending gold plunging and soaring. Some angry dealers suggested



that big speculators were deliberately starting the rumours. Upheaval on the bullion market appeared to have some effect on currency markets for the first time for days. The pound and the dollar weakened in fairly brisk trading. But conditions were nothing like those on the gold market.

The dollar slipped slightly against the West German and Swiss currencies to close at DM1.7285 and Swiss francs 1.6025. The Japanese yen rose by nearly 21 to close at 237.2 against the dollar. Sterling gained 35 points against the dollar but dropped by 0.2 on its tradeweighted index to finish at 71.5 per cent of its end-1971 value.

Although many people must have had their fingers burned in the recent collapse of the gold price from its recent levels last week, there are still many who believe the metal will recover again.

There appeared to be strong resistance to the price drop at the \$600 an ounce level. Dealers reported that some big sellers at \$800 an ounce were buying back once the price fell to below \$600 an ounce. Earlier this month the metal's rise received a temporary setback at above \$600 and then picked up from \$600.

After the present shakeout and profit taking the price could rise again towards the \$1,000 an ounce barrier. However, the volatility of the market makes all predictions suspect.

Political considerations have dominated the price swings and the next move could well be determined by the health of President Tito or the state of East-West relations. At yesterday's close gold had still risen to about \$175 an ounce since the turn of the year. Silver prices were also mixed yesterday, closing 50p lower for spot at 1.575 to 1.710p.

Opec dollar surpluses not seen as problem

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Jan 23

Finance ministers of the "big five" industrial nations have tentatively concluded that the world's financial system should be able to cope with recycling the estimated \$100,000m (about £43,850m) of Opec surplus this year.

But at their weekend meeting in Kronberg, near Frankfurt, the ministers from the United States, West Germany, Japan, France and Britain apparently agreed that after 1980 new instruments would need to be created to handle the oil-induced balance of payments deficit of the "threshold" countries.

Threshold countries are nations such as Brazil, Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt, which are in the throes of advancing from a less developed to an industrialized state. Many of them are either at or fast approaching their debt ceilings while their demand for oil is rising inexorably.

Sources said today that there was general consensus at the meeting that these countries rather than the industrialized nations or the least developed countries would constitute the major recycling problem in future.

Monetary officials are coming to accept that there will have to be some rescheduling of debts run up by the threshold countries. The feeling is growing that the western industrial nations will have to provide more direct assistance to them.

An awareness has also grown that the recycling problem is very different from that after the first sharp increase in oil prices in 1973.

At the one extreme there is a growing reluctance on the part of the Opec nations to hold their surpluses in dollars and western policymakers must go some way to meeting this desire for diversification.

Some of the officials must try to see that the indebtedness of certain developing nations does not threaten the West's banking system, and so are exploring the chances for giving the IMF and the Opec aid schemes a greater role in keeping deficit nations afloat.

Officials admit that no patent remedies have been put forward for political discussion so far. Because of worldwide changes in the supply and demand structure for oil, the West cannot now count on a period of stable or falling oil prices as followed the first round of major price increases in the 1970s.

Among the few positive points are the higher reserves held by the central banks.

US monetary official urges joint approach

From Frank Vogel
US Economics Correspondent
New York, Jan 23

A "special appeal" for "co-ordinated efforts" at the coordination by the largest industrial countries to minimize the effects of the huge payments surpluses of the oil exporting countries has been made by a top United States government official.

Mr Anthony Solomon, the United States Treasury's under-secretary for monetary affairs, who has just been named president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, called today for greater co-ordination of domestic economic policies between the industrial nations.

Mr Solomon, who has just returned from meetings in Europe with officials from Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan, also called for reform of the international monetary system and a strengthening of the International Monetary Fund.

He emphasized that there could be no new official world monetary role for gold and said rumours suggesting official action to give gold a new role were "nonsense".

"It is the unanimous view among the key governments and monetary officials with whom I am in frequent contact that the very instability of the price of gold makes it impossible to consider the re-moneterization of gold."

At a packed press conference here to announce official appointments to one of the top positions in the American central banking system, Mr Solomon said he strongly supported the tight credit policies of the Federal Reserve Board and considered "that persistent and steady federal reserve action to control the money supply is absolutely essential".

The international monetary system and particularly the American dollar had shown substantial stability in the period since the freeze by the United States authorities of Iranian assets than some outsiders had expected.

"I think it is rather impressive and especially so as we have had the price of gold jumping around like a yo-yo," he said.

He emphasized that co-ordination of domestic policies which directly influenced inflation, growth and employment between the industrial countries, was a slow and difficult process. He said he really did wish to underline its importance this year.

Mr Solomon sounded confident of progress on this front and on international monetary affairs. Consideration was being given to try to strengthen the International Monetary Fund's powers of surveillance over balance of payments adjustments and international liquidity and financing, as well as foreign exchange policies.

He did not think the meeting in April of the IMF's ministerial committee would be able to finalize all the details of a substitution account under which central banks would be able to exchange dollars for some IMF asset linked to special drawing rights (SDRs).

This comment clearly suggests that the substitution account plan is running into more technical difficulties than have recently been indicated by international officials.

Mr Solomon acknowledged that the IMF had been thinking of using gold in some way to support the substitution account plan but stressed that such use would "be tantamount to a re-moneterization of gold".

He said that he had decided to leave his top treasury post after three years and move to the New York Fed because he relished fresh challenges. He would continue to work on strengthening the global monetary system while also striving to curb domestic inflation.

Docks appointment
Mr John Howard, General Cargo manager with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, has been appointed chairman of the Liverpool Dock Labour Board. He succeeds Mr Jimmy Symes, District Docks Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

PO strives to keep telegram service

By Patricia Tisdall,
Management Correspondent

A tug of war over the loss making telegram service appears to be developing between Government and the Post Office.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, is understood to have questioned the justification for continuing the service in its present form. He is believed to have asked the Post Office to review the long-term future of telegrams in the light of the forthcoming separation of telecommunications from post and Giro.

But the Post Office says it is determined to maintain the service, which straddles posts and telecommunications, despite its losses.

The telegram operation was extensively overhauled by a

new management in 1978. The decision to revitalize the service was one of Sir William Barlow's first moves when he took over as chairman of the Post Office. Sir William promised his full commitment to a re-appeal after the service had been condemned as being "in a serious, indeed, hopeless condition" by the Government appointed Carter Review Committee a year earlier.

About 70 per cent of messages are received by telephone via the telecommunications division but most are delivered by postmen.

The complex internal allocation of resources and costs between the two divisions is understood to be a deterrent to having off the telegram service to private industry. Al-

though the Post Office hopes eventually to eliminate financial losses it does not believe the service would ever be profitable. The Post Office wants to revitalize telegrams to provide a service to households without telephones.

Use of telegrams had been declining steadily for many years, but the inland service has recently shown a marginal improvement. In 1976 4.2 million telegrams were despatched and 3.2 million were sent in 1977.

In 1979 a marketing drive associated with the reorganization contributed to a slight increase to 3.3 million. A rise of 16 per cent in the number of greetings telegrams during the second half of the year was attributed by the Post Office to advertising.

Further changes in organization and operations are being planned and are aimed at improving efficiency and quality of the service. The Post Office plans to promote vigorously services such as the overnight telegram, which, although cheaper than the ordinary rate will enable a message received before 10.30 pm to be delivered with the first post the next day.

This is thought to have considerable commercial potential. The corporation also plans to extend the range of greeting messages which account for an estimated 70 per cent of total use. At present these are mainly used for weddings but a wide range of decorative telegrams are available for birthdays and other special occasions.

No sell out for new offering of tap stock

City expectations at the start of the week that the Government's new offering of long dated stock would prove a sell-out were disappointed yesterday.

Even so, market estimates suggested that rather over half the stock may have been taken up on application and that there could be fresh demand for the stock once dealings start this morning.

It turned out to be a strange day in the gilt market yesterday. With prices looking rather easier on Tuesday, the short-term speculators clearly decided not to come out in force for the new long-dated stock before subscription lists closed yesterday morning.

Though this might have been taken as likely to put a new damper on the market, prices were soon moving ahead again, particularly late in the afternoon.

So if overnight levels are held, it is improved upon when trading resumes this morning, the new stock (Treasury 2 1/2 per cent 2003/05) is expected to open at a premium and could well meet fresh demand provided the Government broker is ready to supply stock.

As expected, applicants for new stock showed a keen interest in the longer-dated issue rather than the short-dated stock, Exchequer 13 1/2 per cent 1983.

With overall applications for the two stocks appearing to fall short of earlier market forecasts, interest rates eased back during the morning. Even so, the market remains extremely tight and any fresh movement of money into gilts over the remainder of the week would keep it that way.

For the authorities the present tightness of money markets is almost certainly a mixed blessing.

Industry is facing two 'grim' years ahead, Sir Keith Joseph says

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Grim warnings about the prospects for industry over the next two years were issued yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, who reaffirmed the Government's commitment to allowing market forces to shape the future of the country's industrial base.

Sir Keith, who appeared before the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, told MPs that the next two years would be difficult with industry facing a "catastrophically" low level of profits. The difficulties, he suggested, would be aggravated by workers asking for pay increases which would add to unit costs and reduce profits still further.

Asked what attitude the Government would take towards companies which found themselves in financial difficulties, Sir Keith said: "The general policy is to leave such situations to be dealt with by the market."

I have announced that there might be exceptions very occasionally of a case where the Government think it necessary to take some action, but it would be very exceptional."

Questioned about the future of Rolls-Royce which is being bought by the Government, Sir Keith said that arrangements for monitoring the company's activities were under discussion.

"Our monitoring will be directed towards minimizing the costs to the taxpayer in crossing the valley through which we must pass before coming into profit," he said.

"We have every confidence in the management of Rolls-Royce and the workforce to reach and maintain profitability, but we must be realistic in going to be a difficult couple of years before they do."

In a two-hour session which covered many aspects of the Department of Industry's work and its role in sponsoring major nationalized industries, Sir Keith declared that he had no magic wand to cure British industry's ills against a background of a century of relative economic decline. But he attributed the lack of progress to what he described as the "gulf of understanding and the gulf of loyalties".

Dealing with regional policy, the Industry Secretary stressed that it was not the intention to alter the main lines of regional policy during the period of the Government, but he revealed that a study was being undertaken by Sir Derek Rayner into the effectiveness and operation of the regional development grants paid to industries which located their business in the assisted areas. While the system would remain stable in general terms, there were problems.

Through its four regional offices the Government is providing £400m of grant payments with a staff of 500. The investigation is designed to produce improvements in the processing of claims and payment of grants with benefits to the taxpayer. It should be completed in about four months.

Questioned about the effectiveness of the Invest In Britain Bureau and its impact on attracting foreign investment to the United Kingdom, Sir Keith said that he believed that overseas businessmen were pretty hard-headed when it came to taking investment decisions, although there were occasions where the work of the bureau had succeeded in persuading a company to locate in Britain.

But he said that the country's reputation for bad industrial relations created an impression in the minds of foreign investors which could deter them from investing.



Mr Ralph Ehrmann: talk of new products at Airfix.

Airfix chief in talks with institutions

By Philip Robinson

Mr Ralph Ehrmann, Airfix chairman, faced the first of two vital meetings with his institutional shareholders yesterday. He had called the meetings after several inquiries in December when he decided to close the Meccano and Dinky Toy factory in Liverpool.

Seven of the 20 invited institutions took part in the talks which lasted three hours. A further meeting with the remaining 13 is planned for today.

The company would not say whether the finances of the company were discussed, but said in a statement that Mr Ehrmann discussed the company's activities and his philosophy for Airfix in the 1980s and also talked about new products.

Twenty-four hours before the meeting Mr Ehrmann received an offer for Meccano from Sheridan Investments, a privately-owned Derbyshire manufacturer of do-it-yourself products.

It is understood the offer was worth much less than £2m and Mr Ehrmann is reported to have described it as a breaker's yard offer.

British Aluminium puts prices up again

By Edward Townsend

British Aluminium yesterday announced a further round of price increases that will boost the cost of primary ingot to £815 per tonne from February 4. The company has now imposed three increases since last summer, which in total have lifted ingot prices by more than 16 per cent.

The latest rise follows that of Alcan Aluminium 10 days ago when primary ingot went up by £50 to £810 per tonne in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic.

World aluminium prices have

been increasing in line with forecasts of a significant upsurge in demand in the next few years, which the producers may be unable to satisfy.

Stocks of the metal around the world have been falling consistently for almost two years and it is clear that producers will seek to raise prices substantially as the prospects of a shortage grow and the cost of fuel escalates. Energy accounts for about half the cost of producing aluminium.

British Aluminium, which has capacity in the UK to produce about 140,000 tonnes per year, said the current increases reflected severe cost pressures,

particularly fuel, and the need to try to restore margins to "a more flexible level". The company has just embarked on a £35m modernization of its Lochaber smelter at Fort William which, because of high energy costs, is likely to be the last expansion of aluminium capacity in the United Kingdom for many years.

British Aluminium uses most of its primary metal in its own downstream activities and said that the prices of semi-fabricated, extruded, rolled and drawn products would be increased by 8 per cent from February 18. Increases in foil products prices would be announced shortly.

Premiums for billet and high purity metal would be raised from February 4.

UK aluminium prices are catching up with those in other European countries. The French price for primary ingot rose to £821 per tonne earlier this month, the Italian to £866, and the end of December the German level is expected to be lifted soon to £818.

Until recently, aluminium production and demand grew at about 8 per cent a year and most producers believe that a high rate of return was sacrificed in a bid for fast growth and cheap prices.

Programme companies and advertisers stand to lose millions of dollars

Counting the TV cost of an Olympic boycott

President Carter's call on United States athletes to boycott the Moscow Olympics this summer is throwing the major television networks into a dilemma which could cost them millions of dollars. Any counter action by Russian competitors in Lake Placid Winter Olympics would be a small beer to the financial disruption resulting from a Moscow boycott.

Mr Alan Baker of NBC, which paid \$70m (£30m) for his American rights to screen the summer Olympics, said his network would scrap its coverage if America decided not to take part.

It could recoup a large portion of the outlay through an insurance policy at Lloyd's, but its real problem would be the further \$150m it is advertising revenue for commercials to be screened during the Olympic programmes which it would also lose.

Almost all the available time has been sold much of it at premium rates. The insurance policy does not cover this loss — nor is the government likely to offer compensation, neither to the network nor to the companies which will have to scrap already made commercials.

The ban would also sabotage NBC's schedule to find programmes to fill the 150 hours of empty screen time.

Smaller TV stations within the NBC orbit would also be hit as they had expected to sell 20 per cent of the available Olympic commercial time locally on their own account.

Industry sources estimate that a further \$100m will be lost by manufacturers of branded goods bearing the Olympic insignia and many manufacturers have already stopped production of these items.

Levi Strauss, they say, will be particularly hard hit. Not only is it supplying 6,000 uniforms to the athletes themselves, but it was planning to use this gimmick of image from that of jeans manufacturer to a complete clothing company.

Coca Cola the soft drink manufacturer also stands to get a poor return on its million dollar drive to capture the Russian market from rivals

PepsiCo. To be soft drink supplier to the games it agreed to leave behind in Moscow much of the plant needed to supply the 19 million drinks it expected to sell. And it paid the Russians \$1.3m in fees for the privilege.

It is difficult to imagine American television companies happy to see the Russians arriving in Lake Placid, the small ski resort 300 miles north of New York City, where the winter Olympics are due to begin next month.

ABC television is particularly sensitive. For the past few years it has dominated the American TV network with far more viewers than its rivals.

But much to the industry's surprise, instead of being comfortably in the lead with half this season gone, it is running neck-and-neck with CBS. The

boost it would get from its exclusive winter Olympic coverage could be crucial in deciding if it can hold on as number one — and be able to charge premium advertising rates again next season.

When Lake Placid tendered for the Games four years ago the cost was estimated at \$25m. But spending has soared to more than \$180m.

The money came: \$93m from federal funds; \$43m from state funds and \$46m from private sources. Some, at least, of this might have to be repaid if the Games collapse, though how the community could afford it is another matter.

Some \$30m of the privately raised money came from industry. More than 200 firms ranging from Alka Seltzer to Lipton Soup paid between \$50,000 and \$300,000 each to use the Olympic symbol on their products and be designated as an official supplier.

Four years ago only \$3.8m was paid by 35 companies.

Mr John Carroll, president of a New York agency, Capital Sports, which did much to persuade firms to get involved, says that their commitment stands with or without the Russians. "The games will go on, whether the Russians are there or not," he said.

Anthony Hilton

ZETTERS GROUP LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT

Six months ended 30th September, 1979

Results	30th September 1979	30th September 1978	Year ended 31st March 1979
The unaudited results of the Group for the six months ended 30th September, 1979 compared with the figures for the corresponding period to 30th September, 1978 and the audited figures for the year ended 31st March, 1979 were as follows:—			
TURNOVER:			
(a) Football:			
Gross Stakes Received	8,247,382	7,993,845	17,412,586
Less: Payments to Pools	5,394,965	5,253,286	11,485,502
Winners and Betting Tax	2,853,017	2,740,559	5,927,084
(b) Bingo and Cinemas	2,249,511	1,903,993	3,819,195
	£5,102,928	£4,644,552	£9,746,279
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	634,891	608,470	1,391,538
TAXATION	320,000	316,400	768,913
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	£294,891	£292,070	£622,625
EARNINGS per Share	4.50p	4.45p	9.49p
INTERIM DIVIDEND per Share	0.75p	Nil	Nil
AMOUNT absorbed by Interim Dividend	£49,181	Nil	Nil

Following a period of considerable increase in trading and profits in recent years, brought about mainly by acquisitions, the group has now experienced a levelling off in turnover, particularly by the pools division. As a result, profits are only marginally higher than those earned in the corresponding period of last year.

Interim Dividend
The directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.75p per share (1978: Nil) which will be paid on 11th April, 1980 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on



Sardinia fibre plant gets £88m state aid

The Italian cabinet today approved a grant of 160bn lire (£88m) to ENI, the state hydrocarbons corporation.

The grant, announced before Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, flew to the United States, will enable ENI to buy out Montefibre's 50 per cent share in the disaster-stricken Ottana manmade fibres plant in central Sardinia, which has never made a profit since starting production in 1975. ENI already owns the other 50 per cent through its chemical subsidiary ANIC.

This revenue for Montefibre should in turn clear the way for a 200bn lire (£111m) rescue by its parent Montedison and the Mediobanca merchant bank. Montefibre is the most serious loss maker in the Montedison empire.

Trade gap widens

Britain's trade deficit with the Soviet Union totalled £409.9m last year, up £144.8m on the 1978 figure. Imports from the Soviet Union rose 20 per cent to £238.5m while British exports fell by one per cent to £419.0m, according to British figures released in Moscow.

Iran reserves rising

Iran's non-frozen foreign exchange reserves are rising by about \$1,000m (£435m) a month and now stand at about \$7,000m (£2,078.5m), according to Mr Ali Reza Nobari, the governor of Iran's Central Bank (above). He said about \$4,000m funds are illegally frozen abroad.

Bonn bank directive

West German banks must include gold, silver and platinum in their open foreign exchange positions from February 1. The new regulation issued by the Finance Ministry means that banks cannot hold more than 30 per cent of their liable capital in open foreign exchange, gold, silver and platinum.

More bankruptcies

A total of 657 insolvency petitions were brought before West German courts last November, four more than in November 1978. Business insolvencies totalled 416, while insolvencies of individuals and estates totalled 241.

Money supply up

The growth of West Germany's broadly defined money supply (M3) rose 5.1 per cent on an annually projected basis in December, up from a rise of 4.4 per cent in November. The M2 supply grew at an annually projected 10.3 per cent in December, up from a rate of 8 per cent in November.

£55m order for R-R

Orders for five Boeing 747s powered by Rolls-Royce RB211 engines have been approved for Qantas, the Australian airline, by the Australian Government. The deal is worth £55m to Rolls-Royce. In another deal, Hongkong & Shanghai Catering Airways is to invest £27m on a Boeing 747-200B, also powered by Rolls-Royce RB211 engines, for delivery in June 1981. Almost £7m of the investment will go to the United Kingdom in orders for the engines, galleys, and seats.

Japan deficit drops

Japan's customs cleared trade deficit narrowed sharply in December to \$254.83m (£111.64m) on an upwards revised figure of \$221bn (£97.14m) deficit in November, and compared with a \$1,976m (£865.9m) surplus a year ago. The Finance Ministry said in Tokyo.

SEC member resigns

Mrs Roberta Karmel has resigned as a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, from February 1, for "purely personal" reasons. Another commission member, Mr Irving Pollack, plans to retire in June.

Japan lending curb

Japanese Finance Ministry has told Mitsui Bank to strictly observe 1974 guidelines for lendings to single borrowers and reduce its lendings to Mitsui and Co Ltd by 66.880m yen (£122.04m) by the end of March.

British companies fear long-term damage if sanctions are adopted

No stomach for Soviet trade war

It was business as usual yesterday for the several hundred British companies which trade with the Soviet Union. But there was some anxiety that the present cordiality of relations could soon be replaced by coldness.

Today Lord Carrington, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, will give details of political and trade measures to be taken against the Soviet Union in retaliation for its invasion of Afghanistan.

He is almost certain to announce that the present cheap credit arrangement with the Soviet Union will not be continued when it expires on February 16. About £400m of the original £950m facility remains available.

However, businessmen fear that if trade sanctions are to be successful they must be more wide-ranging and consequently far more damaging to British business interests.

Mr Ronald Scrivener, executive director of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce, said that political differences should not be allowed to interfere with trade. Curtailing trade would have a serious effect on employment in Britain.

The chamber's membership is made up of 635 British companies and 46 Soviet foreign trade organizations. Relations between the two groups remain good and both are anxious that trade should continue.

The Government wants coordinated action against the Soviet Union, Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, has discussed possible retaliatory measures with British European partners. Yesterday, trade and industry ministers held talks with Mr Luther Hoeft, the United States deputy commerce secretary, on concerted action.

But businessmen remain concerned that Britain's action will not be duplicated by that of its European partners. "Personally, I believe that there is a danger that if we go it alone, our competitors will merely benefit," Mr Anthony Howe, executive secretary of the East European Trade Council, said. Cutting off trade with the Soviet Union would mean incurring considerable odium which would take many years to dispel.

Few industrialists believe that there will be a complete trade embargo. They recognize that scope for hurting the Russians by refusing technological aid, as the Americans intend, is limited. On the other hand Britain obtains important raw materials from the Soviet Union.

Last year, it met 4.8 per cent of United Kingdom oil needs. Trade figures released yesterday show that the trade gap widened in Russia's favour during 1979. Imports totalled £227.6m (against £68.1m in 1978) and exports £419m (against £423m).

The main imports are oil and oil-related products, diamonds, furs, cork and timber. The remainder was accounted for by various commodities. For example, 11 per cent of 1979, for example, £27.5m worth of cars were imported. The Soviet Union provided 11 per cent of Britain's diamond imports and 13.5 per cent of timber imports.

It is on the export side, however, where companies are most likely to be hit by trade sanctions.

In the first 11 months of last year exports totalled £381m. The breakdown was: machinery £117m, of which office and data processing machinery was worth £12m; semi-manufactured goods £103m, of which iron and steel products were worth £33m; textiles £33m; and chemicals £107m.

Expansion of Anglo-Soviet trade since the war has been disappointing despite the boost given by the £950m line of credit extended by the Wilson government in 1975. The scheme has been administered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which yesterday confirmed that even if it was withdrawn there would at present be nothing to prevent companies continuing to trade and to seek ECGD cover for their business. ECGD officials yesterday held talks with ministers.

The largest single cheap loan guaranteed was for £233m (about £102m) advanced for a methanol plant being constructed by Davy Powergas, Davy, which is bidding for at least two more contracts in Russia, is only one of a number of large international companies whose future workload in the Soviet Union could be jeopardized by any sanctions.

Others include ICI, which has a long-standing relationship with Eastern bloc states, and British Petroleum, which recently announced that its German subsidiary was negotiating with the Soviet Union for the construction of a £5,100m natural gas pipeline.

Several companies, including Rank Xerox, Marconi International, part of the GEC group, have received contracts tied specifically to the staging of the Olympic Games in Moscow. Marconi, for example, has supplied television monitoring equipment. Many have hopes of repeat orders.

Whatever the measures announced by Lord Carrington, existing contracts are unlikely to be affected. ECGD cover will not be withdrawn and no difficulty in obtaining payment for work done or goods supplied is expected.

Mr Scrivener said: "The Russians have a first-class record of honouring contracts."

John Huxley

Industrial investment fall of 7.5 pc predicted

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 23

Industrial investment in Britain this year will fall by at least 7.5 per cent in real terms, according to the latest half-yearly investment survey from the European Commission in Brussels.

The predicted decline will probably be unparalleled elsewhere in the EEC. Throughout the Community investment is expected to rise by 2.5 per cent after advancing by only 1 per cent in 1979.

The survey was carried out in October and November last year and therefore cannot consider industry's reactions to the latest oil price increases. It suggests that Belgium and Germany will experience a strong real growth of 8 per cent in industrial investment in 1980.

In the Netherlands, investment should advance by 6 per cent in volume terms; a 5.5 per cent growth rate is predicted for France. Data for Italy were unavailable when the survey was compiled and the commission expects industrial investment in Ireland to remain static this year.

The commission expects that the whole community industrial investment will be most buoyant in basic materials with a volume increase this year of 5.5 per cent after last year's fall of about 6 per cent.

The metallurgical industry is expected to show a 4.5 per cent rise in volume investment after a slight fall last year. In the processing and food industries the investment climate is expected to weaken this year. Fall in volume investment is expected to be 3 per cent for processing and 2 per cent for food.

The commission does not give volume forecasts for industrial sectors in individual countries.

In Britain, overall investment in value terms, before adjustment for inflation, should rise by only 4 per cent this year (compared to 9 per cent in 1979) and the best performance is expected from the food industry with a 9 per cent advance.

Spending in other sectors in Britain should increase at rates well below inflation this year. The commission expects a rise of 7 per cent in investment in the British basic materials industry, 3 per cent in mechanical industries and only 1 per cent in processing industries.

Investment in the British metallurgical industry is expected to drop by 2 per cent in value this year after an 8 per cent fall in 1979. This is a substantial real decline when inflation is taken into account.

The commission's December survey of business opinion has confirmed a downward trend in business confidence in the community. The graph marking the business climate in the community started to move downwards in August 1979 but the trend was interrupted briefly by a slight improvement in November.

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Productivity is becoming increasingly crucial for the domestic electrical appliance industry's competitive strength in home and foreign markets, despite signs of improvement in performance.

This is the conclusion of the latest report published yesterday, of the National Economic Development Council's sector working party which investigated the pricing and production methods of the Italian industry.

Italian competition, particularly in automatic washing machines, remains "a matter for concern", with the landed price of an Italian machine in 1978 standing at £99 compared with a United Kingdom factory gate price of £150, the report says.

Italy's high output and low manufacturing levels kept labour costs below those of the United Kingdom, the working party points out. There was also a generally low level of overheads, although the competitive price advantages of the Italian industry were now to some extent being eroded by substantial wage increases.

The working party will send

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The working party will send

Subsidies to merchant yards cost £863 a man

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Subsidies to shipbuilding workers are costing the taxpayer £863 for each of the 27,000 men engaged in merchant building yards, and subsidies throughout the whole shipbuilding industry are £297 for each man.

The level of aid has been disclosed by Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry, amid the growing financial pressures on the industry.

Shipbuilders which will shortly recommence pay negotiations with their workforce.

In the first nine months of its existence subsidies to the 37,000 workers then employed in merchant building yards, and subsidies throughout the whole shipbuilding industry are £297 for each man.

The direct subsidy is paid to British Shipbuilders through the Government's intervention fund which is designed to bridge the gap between British prices and those of its foreign competitors.

In this financial year the ceiling of £65m has been set for intervention fund allocations.

Next financial year the corporation will be restricted to intervention fund assistance of only £55m which has to be included in the overall loss figure of £90m.

In addition to the direct subsidy aid for new orders the corporation has also received a further £166m in the form of public dividend capital to support all its activities.

Equally the strength of sterling had helped weaken the exporting export performance which was suffering from stock shortages caused by strong home market demand, the report states.

The working party urges the industry to keep abreast of microelectronic developments. It is also concerned about smaller companies which may be hit by cutbacks in Government spending on export promotion.

Most members of the working party are also opposed to the Government's giving of the various electricity boards' high street showrooms. The boards' marketing function should remain intact, says the report.

Domestic Electrical Appliances Progress Report 1980. National Economic Development Office, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QX.

the result of its investigation to the industry; in Britain the industry has more than 200 plants employing about 63,000 people. Bringing these lessons home will demand the "full commitment" of both management and trade unions, the report says.

Overall import penetration has nevertheless declined; the sector saw a 10 per cent sales increase up to the end of the third quarter 1979 compared with the previous year.

Although import penetration has been checked in some sectors where British manufacturers are particularly vulnerable, it has risen in the one-door refrigerator market. Imports stood at 30 per cent; Italy was the largest source accounting for 60 per cent of all such imports, says the report.

In the growth sector of the refrigerator market, fridges' import share has been reduced but it still stood at just under 70 per cent, the report says. Fridge-freezers now account for more than 40 per cent of the refrigerator market and are a strong challenge to the United Kingdom makers as further capacity comes on stream in Britain, the report adds.

skills which would be owned and sponsored by groups of small tool manufacturers. He said the fact that Britain was bottom of the league gave those who were still in business "a management opportunity second to none".

In a controversial address which nevertheless had a polite hearing Mr Sidney Kallar, a Ford engineer and official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said the British tool industry had been going downhill for decades largely because of management neglect. The result was a chronic shortage of skilled labour, with men leaving to work overseas for much higher wages. The time was coming when we would be a nation of assemblers of other people's products made on tools designed and produced overseas.



Mr Adam Butler: disclosed level of aid.

In its first year the state shipbuilding corporation lost £108m. Last year it lost £49.5m against a target loss of £45m.

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Mr Roy Roberts: toolmakers took too much out of businesses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allowing capitalism to work

From Professor G. W. Maynard

Sir, In an article appearing in your issue of January 14, Mr Heffer explains why competitive capitalism causes strikes. He tells us that workers want to buy the goods and services their labour produces which leads them to demand higher incomes which in turn affects profits and therefore leads to conflict. The argument is not clear as it stands but some numbers may throw some light.

If, ignoring for the sake of simplicity all the messy complications such as government expenditure and taxation, population growth, international terms of trade, the labour force were producing say 3 per cent more goods and services each year and demanding increases in income of 3 per cent per year, presumably there would be no problem for capitalism or profits.

But if the labour force were demanding a 20 per cent rise in incomes each year while pro-

ducing no more goods and services (roughly the situation in the United Kingdom today) then no doubt problems would arise; but so they would in any economic system.

Of course, I quite understand that in a communist system the labour force would not be allowed to demand or get an increase in incomes of 20 per cent per annum when production was rising by say only 3 per cent; indeed, in order to ensure that state enterprises were adding to their real capital equipment at the socially determined rate, the labour force would probably get less than 3 per cent.

I appreciate that even in these circumstances the communist system would not be plagued by strikes, although the nature of the system which ensures that this is so may not appeal to all British workers or their leaders. Moreover, despite success in avoiding conflict in Mr Heffer's sense (although apparently not other forms of

conflict) there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the communist system cannot match the capitalist system in producing the goods and services the labour force wants and raising its real standard of living thereby.

Of course, regrettably, I have to omit the United Kingdom from this latter generalization; but this may be because some trade union leaders, impressed by Mr Heffer's economic analysis, are not willing to allow British capitalism to work.

It certainly seems more probable that the United Kingdom suffers less from the labour force getting too little income to buy the goods and services available than from too low a rate of profit on capital and too little investment which restricts the supply of goods.

Yours faithfully,
G. MAYNARD,
14 Citra Avenue,
Reading, Berkshire.

PO made its plans known

From the Senior Director, Post Office Postal Services

Sir, Mr Brode of Croner Publishing comments (Letters, January 17) on my letter to Mr Fairlie, chairman of the Mail Users Association, about the way the Post Office has communicated news of the postal price increases due on February 1.

As Mr Brode is, like Mr Fairlie, a member of the executive of the Mail Users Association, I am surprised that he has not been able to keep in touch with news about the price increases since his association, on behalf of its members, received copies of three press statements by the Post Office on this subject. The first, dated November 1, announced our intention to raise postal prices on December 18, gave our comments on the report of the Post Office Users National Council; and the third, dated December 20, confirmed final plans and dates, on which I have already commented.

By keeping his association informed of these developments, our aim was to give service to their members and those of other groups representing customer interests.

Mr Brode states that the Post Office should expect no complaints for doing its job at this time. I am sure that the fact that we are not seeking complaints but a recognition of the fact that, on the whole, the massive job was completed successfully despite bombs, bad weather, industrial relations difficulties and other problems. We are entitled to expect criticism to be fair and not corrupting.

Mr Brode also says that no briefing about our plans to improve efficiency and reliability have been given to user associations. Not so: details of these plans have been given to and discussed with the Post Office Users National Council. A background briefing was given to the chairman of Mr Brode's association at the time of our public statement (November 1) and there have been opportunities at meetings which his association subsequently held with the Post Office for further briefing.

The need to improve productivity has been fully recognized by us and the management of the Postal Business is on record as saying that productivity must be improved. This is what we are actively and determinedly seeking to do in the plans which he says he has not been briefed on.

Yours faithfully,
D. HENRY,
Senior Director, Postal Services,
Post Office,
St Martin's le Grand,
London EC4A 3HQ,
January 22.

Complexity of 'bargain offers' order

From Mr L. Seeneey

Sir, Nobody who is subject to the provisions of the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order 1979 will have been surprised to learn that trading officers view it with concern (January 17) and I have every sympathy with the one who is quoted as saying "... we have been lumbered with enforcing something nobody understands."

Departments of Trade clearly recognizes the difficulties involved, and has issued notes of guidance which "are intended to assist enforcement officers on the application of the provisions of the order."

The National Chamber of Trade in turn reproduced these notes in an attempt to clarify the situation for its members ... who are not only expected to understand the law but risk fines up to £1,000 (unlimited fines if convicted on indictment) if they break it.

The notes will not, however, do much for traders who are not skilled in interpretation of "departmental" language. They run to 12 typed pages, and the following extract is fairly typical:

"Article 7(2) (B) provides that 'has charged' in articles 3(2) (A) (1) and 4(2) (A) (1), the applied unit of this country, have been subjected to so much new law—most of which is as difficult to interpret as this particular order—that even professional enforcement officers find it impossible to keep up with it all."

At a time when everybody is trying to cut down on counterproductive activities and unnecessary paper work, would it not be a good idea to take a long, hard look at this sort of over-government? Small business in particular would be grateful for a Government policy with regard to new law of "not unless it is really necessary—and only then if it can be understood by those liable to be penalized if they fail to operate within it."

LESLIE SEENEY,
Director General, National Chamber of Trade, Enterprise House, Henley on Thames, Oxon.

Subsidies as part of the steel sum

From Mr R. J. Baister

Sir, May another retired BSC executive make a contribution to the BSC debate, perhaps a little less adversely critical than has been the habit. It is on the question of productivity.

This is a subject fraught with difficulties not to say pitfalls, into which your Industrial Editor seems to have succeeded in projecting himself in his article (January 8) comparing BSC productivity with Japanese. One principal difficulty is comparing like with reasonably like and this he has singularly failed to do since he has compared two individual Nippon Steel plants with BSC as a whole.

The employment of labour in relation to liquid steel output is the crux of all yardsticks since it begs so many questions. For instance:

1. What is the product range of each plant?
2. What is the actual production programme within the product range in each case?
3. To what extent are production operations, maintenance, services and other ancillary operations put out to contract?

Moreover, it is well known that the Japanese labour statistics rarely, if ever, include all the employees of a company, which cost BSC £750m in the first eight years of nationalization.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN UPHAM,
Research Officer,
The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation,
Swinton House,
224 Great Inn Road,
London W1X 8DD,
January 22.

Lloyds and the national interest

From Lord Orr-Ewing

Sir, There must be many others among the 15,000 or so "names" at Lloyd's who feel as alarmed as I do at the prospect of C. T. Bowring being acquired by a United States company. We "names" have put all our assets behind the judgment of the management of our individual syndicates. We did it because we trusted them implicitly; we could not feel the same, however, if ultimate control was transferred overseas.

It is on grounds of public interest that I principally want to object. It cannot be in Britain's interest to let one of the largest insurance brokers go under foreign domination. It is clear that the domino effect would follow, since several other United States companies are awaiting their chance.

My concern is based on the fact that Lloyd's continue to contribute a very large slice of this country's invisible earnings. This consistent contribution becomes ever more vital as our engineering and other exports meet increasing difficulties and will be still more so when our North Sea oil output passes its peak.

France would not dream of allowing such a thing to happen; nor should Britain.

Yours faithfully,
IAN ORR-EWING,
House of Lords,
Westminster.

try to produce notes of guidance to assist traders to understand

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Decca's scope for argument

There is no suggestion of a hitch in the talks between Rascal and Decca as yet, but there is evidence that when Rascal discloses its takeover terms—perhaps today—it will have had to pay more than it seemed to be indicating last week. The argument of course will be about Decca's hidden worth and the recovery potential in its capital goods business now that action has and is being taken to shed or alleviate the heavy losses on the consumer products side of the group.

As a result of the trauma on the consumer side—music and television manufacturing—during the past couple of years, Decca's £60m which suggests getting of about 100 per cent. For a company continuing to sustain large losses that is obviously unacceptable. But the deal to sell most of its music interests to PolyGram, which could yield Decca some £20m net of redundancy costs over three years, and £15m of it next year, demonstrates the sort of cash Decca is capable of stripping out of its historically-valued assets.

The music catalogue, for example, for which PolyGram could pay as much as £9m, had a book worth of virtually nil. Decca has other unrealized riches in its locker: indeed it is possible making several wide assumptions—specifically about the value of the television manufacturing business after stripping out stocks, and the real possibility of a successful £18m patent claim in the US which is now at the appeal stage—to construct a case for saying it could wipe out most of its borrowings over the next 12 months. That assumes losses are stemmed in television, possibly by its sale, and that the capital goods business performs at least as well as it did in the first half of the year.

There is a case, therefore, albeit slim, for Decca arguing that it could continue on its own—though it may not get much support from its large institutional holders—the Prudential and Kuwait Investment—unless it introduces impressive younger managers onto its board.

That possibility aside, Decca is well capable of negotiating a higher price out of Rascal—perhaps another £10m to £15m above the £60m which the market seemed to think Rascal wanted to pay when the approach became public last week.

Rascal will probably go along with this. Having made its move it badly wants a clean agreed deal with the Decca board. A bid over the head of Sir Edward Lewis, who could probably count on the support of 25 per cent of the voting stock, would be risky and untimely of Rascal. It learnt its lesson about contested bids three years ago when it went unsuccessfully into the middle of a bid battle for Ultra and had to pay more than it wanted to for Milgo in the US.

Tobacco
Benefits of cash flow
The three shares that make up the FT Actuaries Tobacco share index are currently selling on an average yield of almost 10.5 per cent—which makes this the third lowest rated sector in the United Kingdom market. By implication the outlook for engineering companies is only marginally better than that for textiles (which are selling on an average yield of 12.5 per cent), and rather worse than that for the engineers (which are selling on single figure yields). But is this true?

It is almost certainly true that longer-term this is an industry with problems. Largely because of the health scares, consumption in the United Kingdom is falling already; and while the contrary trend is evident in both the United States and the developing countries, this is partly because of demographic factors: the rate of increase 44% is expected to slow as the rate of population growth levels off.

However, if the tobacco business is dying, it is taking a long time about it—quite probably longer than other United Kingdom industries similarly afflicted with what look like terminal maladies: textiles, basic engineering, household goods. And there is another difference between them: tobacco companies, though advancing into a doubtful future, are generating a lot of cash in the process; the rest are not. The cash comes in useful on two counts.

In the first place it enables the tobacco companies to carry on paying dividends. Not

threats of a court case to retrieve them were poor compensation for the assets themselves.

The shares until the last 12 months, were for gamblers only. But now, when the market is so tight, and this time they have.

Sir Alastair formally relinquishes his executive responsibilities, while remaining as a part-time chairman, at the end of February, having coaxed the company back to the dividend line, and in the words of his successor as the chief executive, 58-year-old Stanley J. Wilson, to a position where growth would continue.

Wilson, who takes over the key role of chairman of the operating company, Burmah Oil Trading, was recruited from Mobil only months after Sir Alastair took over as chairman. While together at home, Wilson group around the world negotiating sales of assets to keep the group afloat.

For the past couple of years, since Sir Alastair gave up the position of chairman of the management committee, Wilson has, in effect, been in full executive charge.

The effort of his management team will be concentrated on the tanker side which accounts for around a third of the business.

The court case over the BP shares is likely to go ahead next year, but for the time being, Wilson believes that the company has at last been able to build up management in depth, and it is that which provides the springboard.

Sir Alastair Down.

only do all three of the majors (BATs, Imps and Rothmans) have a reasonable record of dividend growth: the signs are that future dividends will be covered in the case of all three, even on a current cost accounting basis.

In the second place, the cash enables them to diversify. It has to be said that neither BATs nor Imps, which have made a point of this, has shown any talent for picking non-stop winners, but from the point of view of shareholders, a stake in a heavily cyclical industry (like paper or the one hand, poultry on the other) is presumably preferable to a stake in an industry which is quietly dying on its feet.

On these grounds the shares are almost certainly undervalued. Whether they will move relative to the rest of the market must, however, be doubtful ahead of the Budget. Imps shares are, of course, overvalued by the prospect of higher tobacco tax; those of BATs, more unfairly, by its past role as a sterling hedge. Now that investors have freedom to put their money where they like, this share should be valued on its underlying merits: but for the moment it is blighted by the strength of sterling.

Mr Richard Petherbridge, senior managing director of Union Discount, yesterday announced a rise in net profits for 1979, from £1.8m to £2.1m, and an increase in the full year dividend from 26.35p to 28.6p a share. The Union results stand in strong contrast to those reported on Monday by Alexanders, which reported a loss.

Union, it seems, coped much better than Alexanders with the three-point rise in MLR in November. It had considerably lengthened the maturity of its book during August-September, but from then on shortened it very substantially in the expectation that interest rates were more likely to rise than fall during the autumn.

The board is cautiously optimistic on prospects for the current year but is certainly taking nothing on trust at this stage. The gilt market in general, however, appears to be very volatile in its thoughts on how much to tax on trust at the moment. The long "tap" was probably little more than half subscribed yesterday, yet the signs last night were that the mood might be right this morning for the remains of the stock to be run out quite quickly.

Henlys

Waiting for new models

Like Heron Motors, which revealed a 42 per cent interim profits fall earlier this month, Henlys is currently having to pay a pretty price for its loyal Leyland customers.

Full-year profits have slumped almost a quarter to £4.3m and the current year has got off to a bad start with Henlys and its competitors cutting margins in a bid to dig themselves out of the Rover glut.

Over-production of Rovers and the consequent increase in distributors' stock levels provided the main upward twist to interest charges which almost doubled to £1.8m last year.

Although Henlys claims to have cut its reliance on BL from two-thirds to around 65 per cent through diversification last year, the group is clearly going to be locked into the British car industry's problems as it tries to reverse the decline in market share.

Industry estimates are currently for a drop in from 1.7 to 1.45m with Leyland's share likely to drop at least a couple of points to 18 per cent.

Hopes are pinned on a re-vamped Marina due in the summer, the Mini Metro scheduled for October and, looking further ahead, the BL link-up with Honda. But whatever the customer response it will be too late to prevent profits dipping perhaps as low as £3m next time.

With the market fearing worse, Henlys share rose 3p to 95p where, after a maintained payment, a yield of 13.4 per cent gives obvious income attractions. A similar payment next time, however, would only just be covered once by fully-taxed earnings.

Meanwhile asset-backing of over £2 a share lends further support though bid hopes in the wake of the Dutton Forshaw and Wadham Stringer takeovers could be misplaced.

Whither another venture of Lord Stokes (right), erstwhile chairman of BSC? He is the chairman of 2CR, a commercial radio station which hopes to start broadcasting this autumn in Bournemouth, where Lord Stokes has a home.

But Stokes, however, pooh-poohed reports of problems when Business Diary spoke to him at the London headquarters of BL (he remains honorary president).

"We have had literally hundreds and hundreds of applicants for every job we have advertised. We had one managing director who changed his mind for personal reasons. There is no desperate hurry to find another one", he said.

As if finding a successor for the hapless Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation (whose contract runs out in September), is not bad enough, the headhunters now have to replace Paddy Naylor, chief executive of BSC (Industry) the corporation's job creation subsidiary.

It will not be easy, but it offers a challenging prospect. Whoever lands the job will be required to help find jobs for 50,000 steelworkers which the corporation wants to axe over the next nine months. Naylor leaves in June at the end of a three-year contract.

Plumming new depths of understatement yesterday BSC noted: "It is considered essen-

tial that the company's work in offsetting the effects of closures and major redundancies must continue for several more years than was anticipated".

Naylor, previously a director of Bovis and Furness Withy, masterminded the corporation's creation of 3,000 promised new jobs between March, 1978, and last year. He expects to exceed this year's target of 5,000. For the new financial year the target is 10,000.

A man with a clutch of offers (unpublished) beneath his belt, Naylor is going to do his own thing. He is forming a consultancy, Job-Creation, which will sell itself to companies or communities wherever industrial change is throwing people out of work.

Economic notebook

Medium-term plan: a political choice

Treasury ministers should stop agonizing over whether or not a medium-term financial plan should be an important plank in their overall Budget strategy this year.

Probably, they should seal the plan in an envelope and leave it gathered dust on a Treasury shelf. If they succeed in keeping pace with the plan over the next three years or so, they will probably win the next election. If not, who knows?

That may seem an odd line to take; and it may seem yet odder when I add that on balance I would prefer to see a plan published. But if the debate centres on the political risks of lining oneself up behind a highly speculative medium-term plan versus the need to bolster financial confidence in the face of a potentially risky 1980-81 financial plan, then there is no contest.

Financial markets, it is true, may be slightly disappointed if the plan fails to see the light of day; but it is hardly likely to affect their subsequent behaviour to any great extent.

Investors have already given expression to their views of medium-term prospects by creating a yield structure in which long-term interest rates are sharply lower than short-term ones.

What matters to them now is not that the Government should attempt to reaffirm hopes that they have had on how much, but that its short-term policy should be credible in the light of those hopes.

That said, it scarcely seems appropriate that a journalist should discourage the government from fashioning for itself such a magnificently barbed book as a medium-term financial plan. More seriously, though, a strong case can be made for urging the Chancellor not to back down from the concept of such a plan.

All this is made possible, of course, by the fact that the Treasury, spurred on by the present Government, has recently put a great effort into building up its financial forecasting capability.

That does not mean that economic policy decisions will flow directly from financial forecasting in future. Rather, it means that the financial implications of any particular policy option can be better assessed and, secondly, that it should be possible to draw up a realistic path for the development of monetary policy over the years.

From this a number of things follow. First, there is no obvious reason why such a plan should not be drawn up in a proper subject of public information and debate, just as public spending plans are and one day, hopefully, revenue plans too may be.

It is possible to argue that the government has its greatest tests yet to come

Second, and here we probably move to the nub of the case, a medium-term financial plan would provide a discipline for the Government. This is a view that emerged during the days of the last government, when trust was not only less great but when there was indeed a certain amount of backsliding.

Certainly, no one is likely to award the present government anything less than full marks for its commitment so far to disinflation.

But deep-seated though confidence in the Government's medium-term commitment may now be, it is perfectly possible to argue that the Government still has its greatest tests to come.

The first will come this year as the recession starts to become uncomfortable. The second will come at a later stage when the rate of price inflation starts to head back into single figures.

A third reason put forward for publishing a medium-term plan takes me back to where I came in—namely to financial market confidence.

Generally speaking, the case here may be a valid one. As I have explained, however, I doubt that a medium-term financial plan would achieve what ministers might be expecting of it in the present circumstances.

The case against publishing a medium-term financial plan, either with the present Budget or at some later stage, rests on two main grounds. The first is quite obviously the argument of political self-interest: a medium-term financial plan could prove an extremely painful straightjacket. It is an argument on which one needs to waste no further time.

More serious is the argument that medium-term financial forecasting is not, and is perhaps never likely to be, sufficiently precise or reliable to make a medium-term financial plan a credible policy instrument.

That a plan should be chiefly for the benefit of the financial markets is a misconception

In that this would mean that financial markets would take precious little notice of the plan, the object of the exercise would be self-defeating. Moreover, the plan would be, however, would be the possibility of totally discrediting the concept of monetarism in the public eye.

If, on the other hand, the Treasury is convinced that a plan can be considered realistic, then I would add two further reasons for suggesting such a plan should be published.

The first is that if sound money, as achieved through sensible monetary policy, is to remain the prime economic objective in future, then there is a strong case for setting a scenario—through having a rolling medium-term financial plan—that not only imposes a relative short-term discipline on the government in power but which also leaves some form of constraint on any new government that comes into office.

That does, of course, assume that monetary policy will succeed in due time. But once it is seen to succeed any new government will find it difficult to consider new policy options other than against the medium-term financial plan that it inherits.

A second reason concerns the importance of general education and debate. That a medium-term monetary plan should be for the consumption primarily of financial markets is misconceived.

At the moment monetary policy looks likely to be a policy of rather painful gradualism. The sooner the reality of what can and cannot be achieved in a period of disinflation is debated in a context that provides at least some of the hard figures, the sooner one should hope, the policy can start to bear fruit.

Certainly, the prospect of concentrating all one's energies on disinflation alone over the next three or four years is not an attractive one. There are too many other important economic issues that need to be dealt with.

John Whitmore

The French motor group which took over Chrysler's European holdings needs to strengthen its commercial vehicle operations. Clifford Webb reports

Why Peugeot-Citroen is wooing the Dutch

PSA Peugeot-Citroen, the French motor group which acquired Chrysler's European operations 16 months ago, is moving with surprising speed to close the last gaps in its product range and become an important force in the world's motor industry.

The group's weak link is commercial vehicles, the market which rivals like Mercedes-Benz, Fiat and Volvo have shown to be much more profitable than cars. Until Peugeot acquired Chrysler's commercial vehicle plants in Britain and Spain it was only represented in the van market and then only with a very French—and therefore limited appeal—range of vans.

Overnight, Chrysler gave it control over the whole commercial vehicle range from 3.5 tons gross vehicle weight to well in excess of the British limit of 32 tons. But all their trucks over 24 tons were manufactured by Chrysler's Barreiros subsidiary in Spain and are not suitable for more advanced European transport needs.

Daf plants

Reliable sources now say that Peugeot will substantially increase its heavy truck capabilities, starting with an announcement next month that it is to join forces with Daf Trucks, Holland. Daf, which is jointly owned by the Van Doorne family (42 per cent) International Harvester, United States (33 per cent) and Dutch State Mines (25 per cent) almost exclusively produces heavy trucks; last year 15,000 were made.

At its Eindhoven, Holland, and Oerel, Belgium plants, Daf manufactures its own engines, gear boxes, axles and cabs. The move to join forces with Peugeot is not clear at present. Official comment has talked of cooperation in component manufacture and mutual assistance. But there is increasing speculation that International Harvester is not happy with Daf's performance and would sell its shares to the French.

Whatever happens, it is already apparent that M Jean-Paul Parayre, PSA's chairman, intends to use the former Chrysler commercial operations as a base for the restructuring of Europe's commercial vehicle industry.

The giants, like Mercedes-Benz and Iveco, the Fiat-led consortium, have already drawn

dated. Also in the past quarter the government brought back gold deposited in Europe—mainly it is believed, in Switzerland—as collateral for loans. The bargain price paid for this gold was \$140 an ounce.

The second use for the extra revenue has been to augment the government's own reserves. The increased gold price has, of course, automatically revalued gold reserves, but it is unlikely that the government would realise this asset, particularly as it has plenty of cash. Public debate on spending the money is extensive, one popular suggestion being that another Sasol (oil from coal) plant could be built.

Heavy capital spending of a strategic kind is possible, not least because of nervousness about dependence on oil imports—partly diminished by the success of the oil companies of the Rhodesian elections. But the government was seduced by the same argument five years ago and the result was a sizable budget deficit as the gold price fell and inflation started to run at more than 10 per cent.

Similar difficulties stand in the way of a third use for the extra funds—cutting taxes. The budget is due in March, but so far Senator Owen Horwood, the finance minister, has refused to commit himself on whether his speech will recommend reductions in personal taxes, but a reduction from the present top marginal rate of 60 per cent is privately mooted. What concerns Horwood here is the risk of sparking off a consumer boom, with its consequent impact on inflation—now falling below 10 per cent—and on the balance of payments.

Few people expect that reductions in personal tax will be significant, though if the price of gold continues to be favourable during the year the way could be opened for a relaxation next year. But a rationalisation of gold mine taxes is on the cards. At present, mines can be assessed at different rates depending on the age of their leases and shafts and the mine plans, which have to be authorised by the government. Nevertheless, a rationalisation of the undoubtedly complicated present tax structure for mines would

not necessarily lead to a lower overall tax burden. In other words, the extent to which the government can run down its reserves and possible budget surplus is small, particularly if this year sees an even higher gold price double that of 1979.

If a big rise in reserves is unavoidable two further problems follow. One is a revaluation of the rand, chiefly against the South African dollar, which is becoming an industrial exporter of some importance, not just to neighbouring countries on the Continent but to other parts of the world as well, with Latin America a growing market. South African industrialists are concerned that a strong rand could offset the advantages they enjoy from a ready supply of fairly cheap labour.

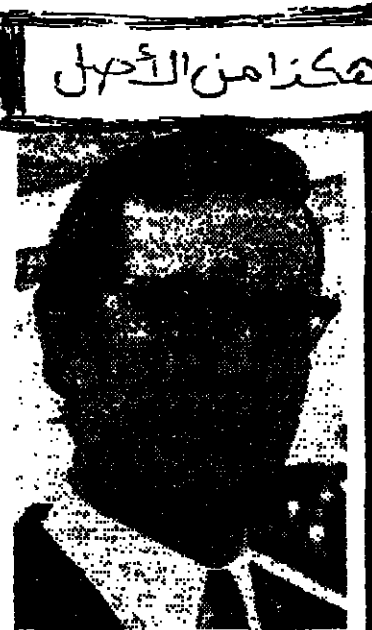
At second, a problem is predominantly political. High mine profits combined with bigger treasury reserves may provoke demands from black workers for large wage increases and better conditions. The gold mines expect wage demands this year of 20 per cent, if not more.

To some extent wages may well be pushed up by Anglo-American, whose chairman, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, is an advocate of improved standards for black workers as a way of averting social conflict.

Sources in the Johannesburg stock exchange suggest that gold prices, coupled with record diamond sales in recent years, could have given Anglo a cash and near cash reserves of R3,000m. If the company was to spend part of this huge sum on its black labour force the repercussions for other mines and the rest of South African industry could be large indeed.

The government will have to tread its way carefully through all these mazes. It will welcome South Africa's enhanced creditworthiness, though for the moment there seems little need to borrow. But experience will dictate caution on personal and company taxation and on capital spending by the state. The most likely outcome of gold's record prices is that Pretoria will sit on its accumulated reserves until the dust settles.

Michael Prest



Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Peugeot-Citroen, plans for expansion.



M. Jean-Paul Parayre, head of Peugeot-Citroen, plans for expansion.

their battle lines across Europe. The result is that smaller competitors such as Leyland Vehicles, Scania (Sweden) and Man (Germany) are looking for safe havens in joint deals which stop short of complete amalgamation.

On paper, at least, Renault, the state-owned French group, has the ability to become a dominant force in commercial vehicles through its Saaviem and Berliet subsidiaries. But in fact, it has run into great trouble in integrating Berliet which it acquired from Citroen when that company went to Peugeot.

No one doubts that in the long run Renault will sort it out. In the meantime, however, it has more than enough trouble on its hands without seeking further involvement in this part of the market.

A problem which PSA will soon have to tackle is the long term value of its manufacturing commercial vehicle operations. It was given permission by Chrysler US to use the Dodge brand name throughout Europe. It is well known and long established in Britain where many still think of it as an exclusively British product. On the Continent, however, it has a very pronounced American image.

In any event, there is reason to believe that Chrysler US set limitations on the time the Dodge name could be used. Dodge UK is at present part of Talbot UK, the renamed Chrysler operation here, which is headed by Mr George Turnbull, the former British Leyland executive. But there is little integration between Talbot's three car plants—Ryton and Stoke, near Coventry, and Linwood, Renfrewshire—and the commercial vehicle factories at Doncaster and Luton. The two operations could quite easily go their separate ways. Such a move is reported to be under consideration.

It makes good economic sense for the two United Kingdom commercial vehicle plants to come under the umbrella of PSA's growing truck empire. Cars and trucks are frequently lumped together under the all-embracing title of "the motor industry" but they are in fact poles apart. Trucks, in particular, require a very specialised approach to both manufacture and marketing.

There is another reason and one that no one wants to talk about. Talbot United Kingdom's operations are still losing money and their future

remains uncertain. Turnbull has shown his strike-prone car workers that he is not prepared to concede an inch in the bullying tactics which forced the former owners to make punitive concessions time and time again.

PSA backed him to the hilt when he refused to increase his 5 per cent wage offer throughout a three-month long strike last summer. But the French factories of Talbot are now seriously underemployed. They already manufacture the Alpine and Horizon sold in Britain and provide Alpine kits for assembly at Ryton. Any new models scheduled for Britain could be switched to the big Poissy factory.

Workforce

Against this precarious background it seems obvious that PSA will only continue supporting a loss-making British car operation if there are positive improvements by a cooperative workforce. And hiring off cars would enable PSA to axe them without dragging down trucks. The commercial vehicle complex at Luton and Dunstable employs only 2,900 people. The assembly plant at Dunstable is in the final stages of a modernization and reorganization programme. It includes a £4.5m paint shop which is the first of its type for trucks in Europe.

Dodge UK has the capacity, on single shift working, to build around 25,000 vans and trucks a year from 3.5 tons to 24 tons GVW. Last year it produced about 10,000. In the past four years it has more than doubled its United Kingdom market share from 4 per cent to around 9 per cent and is forecasting over 12 per cent this year despite predictions that the overall British market will drop by at least 11 per cent.

The cornerstone of its recovery programme is the Commando range of medium-light heavy trucks launched in 1974. It had a poor start in life. Soon after it appeared the British Government had to rescue Chrysler. Many dealers quit for safer pastures.

But Commando is well thought of in the trade and now that it is being supplemented by the new 50 series (3.5 to 7.3 tons GVW) replacement for the old Walkthru and Bannan ranges should give Dodge wider acceptance in the market.

S Africa's cautious line on gold revenues

Gold's swiftness fluctuations will mean much less than the government brought back gold deposited in Europe—mainly it is believed, in Switzerland—as collateral for loans. The bargain price paid for this gold was \$140 an ounce.

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Michael Prest

Business Diary: Burmah days • BSC loses jobfinder

Sir Alastair Down has more reason than most company chairmen to look back on the last five years with a smile of deserved satisfaction. Many men were put in to rescue the victims of the combined onslaught of the oil and financial crises of 1973/74, but few succeeded. Sir Alastair is one of the few.

He was 61, an age when he could reasonably have expected a quiet retirement when he left British Petroleum to bring back Burmah Oil from disaster.

The near collapse of Burmah, which brought the Bank of England in to buy the group's holding in BP at knock-out prices, marked the nadir of the fortunes of the oil market.

For the next two years Burmah could only be at best counsel among the walking wounded. Its future as an independent company was inconspicuously in doubt. Had it been in a position to hang on to its holding in BP, its assets would have been worth having, but

threats of a court case to retrieve them were poor compensation for the assets themselves.

The shares until the last 12 months, were for gamblers only. But now, when the market is so tight, and this time they have.

Sir Alastair formally relinquishes his executive responsibilities, while remaining as a part-time chairman, at the end of February, having coaxed the company back to the dividend line, and in the words of his successor as the chief executive, 58-year-old Stanley J. Wilson, to a position where growth would continue.

Wilson, who takes over the key role of chairman of the operating company, Burmah Oil Trading, was recruited from Mobil only months after Sir Alastair took over as chairman. While together at home, Wilson group around the world negotiating sales of assets to keep the group afloat.

For the past couple of years, since Sir Alastair gave up the position of chairman of the management committee, Wilson has, in effect, been in full executive charge.

The effort of his management team will be concentrated on the tanker side which accounts for around a third of the business.

The court case over the BP shares is likely to go ahead next year, but for the time being, Wilson believes that the company has at last been able to build up management in depth, and it is that which provides the springboard.

Sir Alastair Down.

Whither another venture of Lord Stokes (right), erstwhile chairman of BSC? He is the chairman of 2CR, a commercial radio station which hopes to start broadcasting this autumn in Bournemouth, where Lord Stokes has a home.

But Stokes, however, pooh-poohed reports of problems when Business Diary spoke to him at the

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100

Appointments Vacant

مناصب الشغل

Chief Executive for the Pilotage Commission

The Pilotage Commission wishes to appoint its first Chief Executive at an early date. The Commission is an independent body recently appointed under the Merchant Shipping Act 1979 to advise Ministers and the pilotage interests on all aspects of marine pilotage in the UK.

The post will attract a salary in the £15-17000 range and appropriate pension arrangements will be discussed. We want a person of high, proven administrative ability, preferably with experience of maritime affairs to establish and lead a small permanent staff in London to assist the Commission.

Applications should be marked "Chief Executive" and sent in by 8th February 1980 to the Chairman, the Pilotage Commission, c/o Sunley House, 90 High Holborn, London WC2.

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The business of the Association is to provide holidays in Britain and abroad, together with the arrangements of travel facilities for groups and individuals. The holidays of the Association mainly involve outdoor and special feature holidays.

The person appointed as

Chief Executive will have a personnel, administrative and financial background. A knowledge of property management is desirable, as is the ability to project the image of the Association amongst its members, other associations and operators. The starting salary will be in the region of £10,000 p.a. with pension entitlements.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy General Secretary at Birch Hays, Cromwell Range, Manchester M14 6HU.

Applications, envelopes marked 'Chief Executive', should reach The Chairman of General Committee, The Country-wide Holidays Association, Birch Hays, Cromwell Range, Manchester M14 6HU not later than Friday, 15th February, and will be treated in strict confidence.

Chief Executive BSC (Industry) Ltd.

BSC (Industry) is a company set up by the British Steel Corporation specifically to help create new job opportunities in steel closure areas. Over the past two years the company has achieved considerable success in this field, but in the light of the changes now foreseen in the Corporation's structure it faces a mounting challenge in the years ahead.

The present Chief Executive is nearing the end of his contract term and is charged with finding his successor. The position, reporting directly to the Chairman of BSC, is considered of fundamental importance in implementing the overall plans of BSC.

The task is to attract, persuade and assist companies both large and small to invest in steel closure areas. This involves working with Government, regional authorities, and the European Community, and therefore operating at the highest political and commercial levels.

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Paddy Naylor, Chief Executive,
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INDEX OF CENSORSHIP

A Director is required for the Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its associated magazine Index of Censorship, of which both WSET and Index are members. The Director will be responsible for the Index's content and for the Trust's affairs. The Director will be a person with a background in publishing, preferably in the field of books, magazines, documents and collections. Applicants should have a reasonable knowledge of international affairs and an understanding of literature, law, politics, and the media. They should also have a good knowledge of the English language and experience of journalism or editing. The Director will be responsible for the Index's content and for the Trust's affairs. The Director will be a person with a background in publishing, preferably in the field of books, magazines, documents and collections. Applicants should have a reasonable knowledge of international affairs and an understanding of literature, law, politics, and the media. 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PERSONAL CHOICE



David ("Goldie") Goldsmith, former sub-warden of Radley College, with a parent of one of the boys: Public School (BBC 2, 8.30)

● Jolly nice lads at a jolly nice school with jolly nice ideals. I thought Radley College came through last week's opening instalment of Public School with flying colours and reputation enhanced. Jolly nice staff, too. With one possible exception—the maths teacher who, as the opening episode closed, we saw greeting the tardy new boy on his first morning in class with the cheering invitation: "Come in, you vile boy. You're late! Sit down!" Tonight's episode (BBC 2, 8.30) concentrates on that selfsame teacher, David (Goldie) Goldsmith, who, when these BBC films were made, was sub-warden of Radley. He is now head of another public school in Oxfordshire. While at Radley, he earned himself the reputation of being the Aynatollah of the Fourth, and the source of the third XI. It was not enough to be a maths teacher in his class. To prosper, a boy also had to be able to crack codes, solve anagrams and know, when he won the 2.30 at Lifford, Prep was (or was not) set depending on the fortunes of Ipswich Town Football Club. Tonight's film is an affectionate portrait of this nonconforming pedagogue who served Radley well for 30 years and, presumably, had the boys alternately quaking with laughter and fear during the whole of that time.

● James Burke has no difficulty connecting like to unlike in his BBC series Connections, now being repeated on Monday nights. But I think even he might have had problems linking Aylmer with black pudding. The feat is, however, accomplished by Brian Glover in his play *Thicker Than Water* (BBC 1, 9.25) in which a family of British pork butchers, fired by Shakespeare's prose, goes to France to compete for culinary glory. More than that, I must not say.

● It is comparatively easy to tell a good instrumentalist from a mediocre one, but how do you pass judgment on a conductor who may be only as good as his orchestra and whose Bach may be far worse than his Britten? That little problem is neatly solved in the Rupert Foundation Competition for Young Conductors, the final of which is decided tonight (BBC 1, 10.00) after semi-finals (recorded last Tuesday) at 11.45 this morning, also on Radio 3. All the semi-finalists and finalists will conduct the same orchestra, the BBC Symphony. In the final, moreover, they will have the baton to music by the same composer, Haydn. Among the judges is Gennadi Rozhdestvensky who will show the youngsters how a veteran does it by conducting the Symphony No 1 by Shostakovich towards the end of tonight's transmission.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; *REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am For Schools, Colleges, Japan (Tokyo): 9.25 Physical Science (periodic table); 9.47 Science (friction); 10.10 Merry-go-round; 10.35 Scene; 11.05 On the Rocks (break and make), Close-down at 11.55.
12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Includes Tony Blair's movie spot, Film Focus.
1.45 Heads and Tails: Swing High, Swing Low (r).
2.00 You and Me: a e l o u (r).
2.15 For Schools, Colleges, Music Time; 2.40 Television Club; against the law, Close-down at 3.53.
3.55 Play School: The story of the Willow Pattern. 4.25 Deputy Dewey: cartoon. 4.25 Jackanory: Kenneth Williams continues his reading of Norman Hunter's *The Drabblestone Teapots* (r).
4.40 Screen Test: Second semi-final of this movie quiz. And young filmmaker Ian Pinkava, from Colchester, collects his Young Film Makers Competition trophy for his animated film *The Rainbow*.

BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.55. Close-down at 11.25.
1.25 pm Open University: 5 (01 Preparatory Maths (angles)); 4.40 Dome on the Range; 5.05 The Pre-School Child (all in a Day's Work).
5.40 Laurel and Hardy: Going Bye-Bye (1934). Escaped criminal gets even with his captors who were instrumental in his being sent to jail. A painful finale for an otherwise very funny comedy.
6.00 Film: *Black Sheep of Whitehall* (1941). Not in the same class as last week's *Oh! Mr. Porter*, but an entertaining Will Hay comedy. He plays a teacher who is mistaken for an economist expert and becomes involved with Nazi spies. Also starring John Mills.
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7.25 Newswatch: Back to the Cold War? President Carter's speech to the nation last night provided a springboard for an investigation of what Russia is up to. It also poses the question: What can the US do about it? Richard Kershaw is the presenter and there are judgments from Washington and Moscow.
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8.40 News: With sub-titles for the hard-of-hearing.
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8.55 News: With sub-titles for the hard-of-hearing.
9.00 News: With sub-titles for the hard-of-hearing.

BBC 2

9.00 am For Schools, Colleges, Japan (Tokyo): 9.25 Physical Science (periodic table); 9.47 Science (friction); 10.10 Merry-go-round; 10.35 Scene; 11.05 On the Rocks (break and make), Close-down at 11.55.
12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Includes Tony Blair's movie spot, Film Focus.
1.45 Heads and Tails: Swing High, Swing Low (r).
2.00 You and Me: a e l o u (r).
2.15 For Schools, Colleges, Music Time; 2.40 Television Club; against the law, Close-down at 3.53.
3.55 Play School: The story of the Willow Pattern. 4.25 Deputy Dewey: cartoon. 4.25 Jackanory: Kenneth Williams continues his reading of Norman Hunter's *The Drabblestone Teapots* (r).
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Radio 4

5.50 Regional news, weather.
6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Checkpoint.
9.30 The Living World.
10.00 News.
10.05 Parent Power.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 The Wooden Horse (4).
11.00 News.
11.05 Analysis.
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